



Office of the Kane County State's Attorney  
**JAMIE L. MOSSER**  
STATE'S ATTORNEY

**SECOND MAN IS GUILTY IN 2021 SHOOTING DEATH  
OF 46-YEAR-OLD SAMUEL ORTIZ-RODRIGUEZ**  
FIDEL BELLO PLEADS GUILTY; SENTENCING HEARING IS MAY 31

*RE: Fidel Bello: Age 19 (d.o.b. 9-12-2003), of the 300 block of Sheldon Avenue, Aurora, Illinois.  
Case No. 2021CF945.*

April 4, 2023

Kane County State's Attorney Jamie L. Mosser announces that **Fidel Bello** has pled guilty to the offense of first-degree murder.

Judge David P. Kliment accepted the plea and set Bello's next court appearance for May 31, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 305 at the Kane County Judicial Center for sentencing. Bello faces a minimum sentence of 20 years of imprisonment in the Illinois Department of Corrections for first-degree murder, with the possibility of an additional 25 years to natural life for personally firing the weapon that caused Ortiz-Rodriguez's death.

Assistant State's Attorney Lori Anderson stated the following facts in court:

On May 24, 2021 at 7:30 p.m., Bello, co-defendant Cesar Ponce and a third man, all members of the same street gang, went in search of rival gang members. Bello was armed with a revolver. While walking through a part of Aurora that was considered to be territory of a rival gang, they spotted individuals outside of a residence. Ponce pointed out those individuals, one of them being 46-year-old Samuel Ortiz-Rodriguez of Aurora. Bello shot and killed him. Ortiz-Rodriguez was not a street gang member.

A jury convicted Ponce of the offense of first-degree murder on March 2, 2023. Ponce's next court appearance is scheduled for May 3, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 305 at the Kane County Judicial Center for motions and sentencing. Ponce faces a minimum sentence of 35 years in prison.

**ASA Anderson said:** “Mr. Bello and Mr. Ponce were on a mission to kill a rival gang member that evening. Samuel Ortiz-Rodriguez, while not specifically their target as they were out hunting, was unfortunately in the wrong place at the wrong time. Thanks to all of the citizens who provided information to the Aurora Police Department in this investigation. Also, thanks to ASA Amanda Busljeta for her hard work on this case and in the Cesar Ponce trial, the Aurora Police Department for a thorough investigation, and victim advocate Sheila Gray.”

The third individual was not charged.

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