

Pierce County

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GANG MEMBERS SENTENCED TO 168 YEARS FOR MURDER OF CAMILLE LOVE

TACOMA, WA – Today Pierce County Judge Linda Lee sentenced five gang members to a combined total of more than 168 years in prison for their participation in the drive-by shooting death of 20-year-old Camille Love and injury to her brother Joshua on February 7, 2010. Four of the defendants pled guilty. On January 12, a jury found the fifth defendant, Eduardo Sandoval, guilty of Murder in the First Degree, Assault in the First Degree, and Conspiracy to Commit Murder. These defendants were among 19 Eastside Lokotos Surenos (ELS) gang members who were arrested and charged in a Gang Unit sweep in 2010. Fourteen have been convicted and warrants were issued for the remaining five, who are believed to be in Mexico.

On February 5, 2010, a presumed rival gang member shot at members of the ELS gang outside a club on Tacoma's Eastside. Over the next two days, ELS leader Juan Zuniga and members of his gang planned retaliation. On February 7, several carloads of ELS gang members drove to the Eastside to shoot at rivals. Two gang members fired upon Camille's car as she and her brother drove down Portland Avenue. The others acted as lookouts. Camille and Joshua were mistakenly targeted as gang members because their car was red and Joshua happened to be wearing a red coat. Red is the color associated with rival Blood gangs. Camille died at the scene.

This is one of four major sweeps coordinated by the Tacoma Police Department, the Lakewood Police Department and the Prosecutor's Office Gang Unit. In February 2010, 36 Hilltop Crips were charged with a string of violent offenses. In the Fall of 2010, 19 ELS gang members were charged with three murders that occurred in early 2010, including the murder of Camille Love. In March 2011, 26 Hilltop Crips were charged in a series of burglary and property crimes. In May 2011, a dozen Tillicum Park Gangsters were charged with gun and drug crimes.

"Gang Unit Deputy Prosecutors Greg Greer and Jared Ausserer did an outstanding job," Prosecutor Mark Lindquist said. "We hope this brings some closure for the Love family and helps reduce gang violence in our community."

Eduardo Sandoval was sentenced to 75 years in prison. Saul Mex and Jarrod Messer pled guilty to First Degree Murder and were sentenced to 35 years. Time Time and Dean Salavea pled guilty to Leading Organized Crime and were sentenced to more than 12 and 10 years, respectively. Warrants are outstanding for two others who are believed to have fled the country. Zuniga was murdered by his own gang members in May 2010.

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