



UNION COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

32 RAHWAY AVENUE
ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY 07202-2155
(908) 527-4500
FAX: (908) 289-1267

THEODORE J. ROMANKOW
Prosecutor of Union County

ALBERT CERNADAS, JR.*
First Assistant Prosecutor

ANNE K. FRAWLEY*
Deputy First Assistant Prosecutor

* CERTIFIED CRIMINAL ATTORNEY

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Three Elizabeth men today admitted their role in the beating death of a 23 year old man that occurred on the early morning hours of April 27, 2007 in Elizabeth. Jeffrey Delatorre, age 22, Diego Carrera, age 20 and Roberto Fernandez, age 22, each stood before Union County Superior Court Judge Joseph Donohue today and admitted that they each took part in the unprovoked attack upon the victim Andino Chicas, as he walked toward his Louisa Street home.

As the victim walked home from a friend's house shortly after midnight, he encountered the three defendants as they too were walking down Monroe Avenue. Despite Mr. Chica's attempt to let the three defendants pass him on the sidewalk, they encircled him and began to punch and beat him until he fell to the ground. Defendant Delatorre then proceeded to kick the victim in the head while wearing steel toed boots. The defendants then went through the victim's pockets as he lay unconscious on the sidewalk. Citizens who witnessed the savage attack called 911 and the victim was taken to Trinitas Hospital where he died a short time later from severe blunt force trauma to his head.

Elizabeth Police Detectives Thomas Dubeau, Gonzalo Quesado and Union County Prosecutor's Office Detective David Nechmankin conducted the investigation into this homicide and found surveillance video in the nearby area that was significant in identifying the defendants as they ran away from the crime scene.

'What was particularly shocking about this crime was the randomness of it and the sheer brutality involved', said Union county Prosecutor Theodore J. Romankow. "Had the victim been able to walk a short distance more before the encounter with the three defendants , Mr. Chicas would have made it to the safety of his home," Romankow added.

According to family members, the victim worked as an electrician in Newark and would routinely send money home to help his family in his native country of El Salvador.

“Each defendant plead guilty to Aggravated Manslaughter and faces a 15 year state prison sentence with a mandatory parole disqualification period of 12 years and 9 months, when they are sentenced on August 12, 2011 before Judge Donohue”, said Assistant Prosecutor Patricia Cronin who handled the case for the Prosecutor’s Office.