



NEWS RELEASE

Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes
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PATERSON MEN CONVICTED OF MURDER AND WEAPONS CHARGES IN RELATION TO DECEMBER 2, 2021 HOMICIDE AT EAST 24TH STREET, PATERSON, NJ

PATERSON, NEW JERSEY:

October 7, 2026

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes announces that Jefersson Gonzalez, 25, of Paterson, NJ and Elvis DeJesus, 29, of Paterson, NJ were found guilty on October 6, 2026 after a jury trial before the Honorable Justine A. Niccollai, J.S.C. of First Degree Murder, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:11-3(a)(1)/(2); Second Degree Possession of a Weapon for an Unlawful Purpose, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-4(a), Second Degree Unlawful Possession of a Weapon, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-5(b)(1); and Fourth Degree Tampering with Evidence, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:28-6(1).

Jury selection commenced on August 4th, 2026. During the trial, the State presented evidence, that on December 2, 2021, defendants Jefersson Gonzalez and Elvis DeJesus shot Jasmin Wel while she was in her car outside her home. The evidence included testimony from detectives with the Paterson Police Department and Passaic County Prosecutor's Office, members of the New Jersey State Police Office of Forensic Sciences and the New Jersey Medical Examiner's Office. On October 6th, 2026, following approximately three days of jury deliberations, the Jury returned verdicts of guilty for Murder, Possession of a Weapon for an Unlawful Purpose, Unlawful Possession of a Weapon, Tampering with Evidence against Jefersson Gonzalez and Elvis DeJesus. A third defendant, Kristian Gonzalez was acquitted of all charges.

Sentencing will be held on January 4, 2026, before the Honorable Justine A. Niccollai, J.S.C.

The sentencing exposure for Murder is thirty years to life in State prison. Conspiracy to Commit Murder has a sentencing range between ten and twenty years in State prison. Possession of a Weapon for an Unlawful Purpose has a sentencing range of five to ten years in State prison. Unlawful Possession of a Weapon has a sentencing range of five to ten years in New Jersey State Prison. Tampering with Evidence has a sentencing range of up to eighteen months in New Jersey State Prison.

Passaic County Senior Assistant Prosecutor Melissa M. Simsen and Senior Assistant Prosecutor Ali Y. Ozbek represented the State during the jury trial before Judge Niccollai. Jefersson Gonzalez was represented by Scott Finckenaue, Esq., and Elvis DeJesus was represented by Adriene Edward, Esq.

For media inquiries concerning this incident, contact Senior Assistant Prosecutor Melissa M. Simsen of the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office at msimsen@passaiccountynj.org or at (973) 873-7605.



(Photo Jefersson Gonzalez)



(Photo Elvis DeJesus)