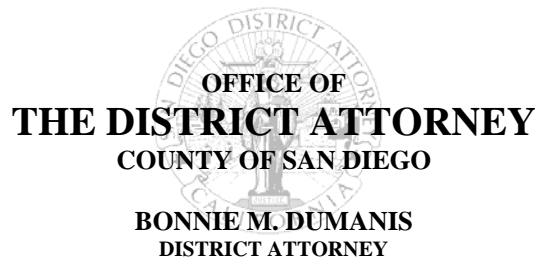


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Four Defendants Arraigned On Murder and Assault Charges in SDSU Stabbing Death

San Diego County District Attorney [Bonnie M. Dumanis](#) announced today that four young men have been arraigned on murder charges in connection with the stabbing death of a college student on the San Diego State University campus on the early morning of October 4, 2008.

Rafael Garcia, 19, Ryan Kelly Jett, 22, Esteban Nunez, 19, and Leshanor Thomas, 19—of Sacramento—are all charged with one count of murder, three counts of assault with a deadly weapon and one count of vandalism. They face a maximum sentence of life in prison if convicted of murder.

All four defendants pleaded not guilty at today's arraignment. Bail was set in the amount of \$2 million, with the exception of Jett who is being held without bail on a probation violation. Judge David Szumowski also set future court dates, including a bail review hearing on December 9 at 1:30 p.m. in Department 12, a readiness hearing on January 27, 2009 in Department 11, and a tentative preliminary hearing date on March 18, 2009.

Deputy District Attorney Jill DiCarlo said Nunez and the three other defendants committed the crimes when they became angry after being turned away from a fraternity party. "The defendants were looking for trouble and they bragged that they were all carrying knives," DiCarlo said.

The defendants are accused of attacking four victims who were trying to avoid confrontation. Prosecutors say the victims were not gang members and didn't know their attackers. One of the victims, 22-year-old Luis Santos died after being stabbed in the chest. "These victims were in the wrong place at the wrong time," DiCarlo said.

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