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For Immediate Release
May 5, 2010

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Two Plead Guilty to Voluntary Manslaughter and Assault Charges in SDSU Stabbing Death

San Diego County District Attorney [Bonnie M. Dumanis](#) announced today that two defendants have pleaded guilty to one count of voluntary manslaughter and two counts of assault with a deadly weapon in connection with the stabbing death of a college student on the San Diego State University campus in the early morning of October 4, 2008.

As part of the plea, Ryan Kelly Jett, 24 and Esteban Nunez, 21, of Sacramento, also admitted to using a knife and causing great bodily injury. They face a maximum sentence of 16 years in prison when they are sentenced June 25 in San Diego Superior Court. Jett and Nunez, who were out of custody on bail pending trial, were ordered jailed immediately without bail by Superior Court Judge Robert F. O'Neill pending sentencing.

“After carefully evaluating the strength of the case, we have determined this is an appropriate resolution,” DA Dumanis said. “Both defendants are admitting their responsibility for the death of Luis Dos Santos.”

The guilty pleas come one day after jury selection began for their trial. The pleas mean both defendants now have two “strikes” on their records. Any future felonies committed would make them eligible for a 25-years-to-life prison sentence.

Rafael Garcia, 21, of Sacramento, pleaded guilty Sept. 17, 2009 to one count of conspiracy to destroy evidence connected to this case. He is facing up to three years in prison at his sentencing June, 24, 2010. Leshanor Thomas, 21, also of Sacramento, pleaded guilty Feb. 8, 2010 to one count of assault with a deadly weapon and one count of conspiracy to commit assault with a deadly weapon. He faces up to four years, eight months in prison.

The defendants committed the crimes when they became angry after being turned away from a fraternity party. The defendants attacked four victims who were trying to avoid confrontation on the SDSU campus. One of the victims, 22-year-old Luis Dos Santos, died after being stabbed in the chest.

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