

TEXAS
— & Southwest

Cartel figure lashes out

Sunday, October 15, 2006 Page 3A

The Dallas Morning News
DallasNews.com

Ex-informant held by U.S. says drug corruption is rampant

By **ALFREDO CORCHADO**
Mexico Bureau

A former informant whose participation in drug-related murders in Mexico caused turmoil in the U.S. agency that paid him says that there were more killings than reported and that drug corruption extends into the U.S. and Mexican governments.

In sworn testimony and in response to questions submitted through his attorney, Guillermo Eduardo Ramírez Peyro, the man known as "Lalo," provided new details about his work as a drug cartel operative and as a U.S. government informant, and he claimed to have personal knowledge of extensive government corruption.

Mr. Ramírez also lashed out at his former U.S. employers, saying they are turning their backs on him after he helped them apprehend dozens of drug traffickers.

"With the names I provided they were able to arrest more than 50 people, and they took millions of dollars from drug proceeds from U.S. streets," he said. "In spite of that, I'm jailed here without any protection and without any guarantee that I will stay in the United States."

Mr. Ramírez, 35, is being held by the U.S. government at an undisclosed location in the Midwest, fighting deportation to Mexico, where he insists he faces "certain death."

See **FORMER** Page 9A

Former informant says

Continued from Page 1A

U.S. authorities characterize him as a renegade informant whose independent actions led, in part, to the August 2004 killing of an El Paso man, Abraham Guzmán, outside a hamburger restaurant in that border city.

Mr. Ramírez made his remarks in a written response to questions submitted through his attorney, Jodi Goodwin. He had agreed to speak with reporters from *The Dallas Morning News*, which first reported about his role in the cartel killings in March 2004; the Mexico city weekly magazine *Proceso*; the *London Observer*; and *Narco News*, an Internet blog, but prison officials transferred him hours before the scheduled interview.

He apparently was moved at the request of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the agency he served as an informant for four years, Ms. Goodwin said.

Implicating officers

Mr. Ramírez, in confidential memos to ICE, had described how he infiltrated Mexico's powerful Juárez drug cartel and on two occasions witnessed cartel-ordered assassinations and supervised disposal of the victims, including a U.S. citizen. The bodies were found in January 2004 buried in the yard of a Juárez home.

In his latest comments, Mr. Ramírez said the killings usually were carried out by night-shift Mexican police officers working for the cartel and using the nickname "La Línea," or The Line.

"Not all the victims were assassinated at the same house," Mr. Ramírez said. "Some were left on the streets. They would kill people all the time, people who were not buried in [the same house], but in other homes too." He said there were "many more" killings but did not elaborate.

Mr. Ramírez insists he played no direct role in any killing, but critics of his role with ICE have said he was not just a spectator, as agency officials have said.

Reports in *The News* about his role in the cartel killings rocked the El Paso office of ICE, where four special agents were investigated and two supervisors were transferred. ICE is part of the Depart-

ment of Homeland Security.

"The U.S. government is afraid of Lalo's mouth," said Ms. Goodwin, "afraid that Lalo will tell the whole story, which will say that every step he took, every move he made, was with the full knowledge of his ICE handlers."

Mr. Ramírez says he would like to be placed in a witness protection program or sent to Europe.

On Aug. 5, 2005, a U.S. immigration judge granted his petition to stay, agreeing that he would face danger in Mexico. The U.S. government, which initially concurred, appealed that decision and now wants him deported. An appeals court overturned the judge's ruling, and Ms. Goodwin is now appealing that decision.

"Am I angry at the U.S. government?" Mr. Ramírez wrote. "No. I'm sad, hurt that after everything I did for ICE they now want to deport me back to Mexico to face a certain death."

ICE officials had no comment. Spokeswoman Leticia Zamarripa said *The News'* request for comment "was going through the normal review process" and no immediate response was available.

The agency's relationship with Mr. Ramírez was part of an ambitious undercover investigation aimed at snaring Vicente Carrillo Fuentes, then reputedly Latin America's most powerful drug lord.

Misconduct allegations

Critics of the operation have asked whether ICE agents could have prevented some of the killings across the border, and exactly what and when the U.S. attorney's office knew about the killings.

Questions have been raised specifically about the roles of Johnny Sutton, the U.S. attorney in San Antonio, and Juanita Fielden, assistant U.S. attorney in El Paso.

Sandalio González, former Drug Enforcement Administration agent in charge in El Paso, says Mr. Sutton ignored allegations of misconduct by ICE and Ms. Fielden that Mr. González outlined in a lengthy memo to the U.S. attorney's office and the ICE chief in El Paso. He says Mr. Sutton instead used his office to retaliate against Mr. González, who later retired.

"They were not interested in investigating the allegations in my

Attorney: ICE prevented interview

The former U.S. drug informant who is the subject of this report was moved to an undisclosed location shortly before he was to be interviewed by a group of U.S., Mexican and British reporters.

Jodi Goodwin, the attorney for the former informant, Guillermo Eduardo Ramírez Peyro, said he was moved because Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the U.S. government agency for which he had worked, didn't want him to talk with the media.

She said ICE was angry that her client had appeared in a

news report in August on WFAA-TV (Channel 8). She said that Mr. Ramírez didn't know he was being interviewed or taped for a television report and that a hidden camera was used.

Michael Valentia, WFAA executive news director, denied that. "We never had a hidden camera," he said. The WFAA reporter, Mark Smith, couldn't be reached for comment. ICE declined to comment on the reason Mr. Ramírez was moved.

WFAA and *The Dallas Morning News* are owned by Belo Corp.

letter; they were more interested in jamming me for writing the letter," Mr. González said.

Mr. González made his allegations against Mr. Sutton and Ms. Fielden through the Merit System Protection Board in 2004. *The News* obtained the document containing his allegation through a Freedom of Information Act request.

Calls to Mr. Sutton's office in San Antonio were not returned. Ms. Fielden's office referred questions to Mr. Sutton.

Two years ago, ICE ordered an internal investigation to restore confidence in the El Paso office. Its findings remain confidential, but top supervisors Patricia Kramer and Giovanni Gaudio were transferred to Washington. Two other agents were temporarily suspended, and Mr. Ramírez's main handler, Raul Bencomo, remains on administrative leave.

According to court affidavits, the agents said they were not told of the killings beforehand.

"What's clear is, Lalo will haunt us for a long, long time," said an ICE official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Right-hand man

Guillermo Eduardo Ramírez Peyro is a native of Mexico City and a former highway police officer in the southern state of Guerrero. In the late 1990s, he turned to the drug trade, developing schemes to

corruption is rampant

the killings.

Mr. Ramírez also alleged, in the responses through his lawyer, that some U.S. Customs inspectors and some members of the DEA had links to the drug cartel.

He said he turned over to his minders recordings of conversations in which Mr. Santillán talked about connections between the cartel and the "three letter" agency — which he took as a reference to the DEA — and the fact that "Vicente Carrillo Fuentes had absolutely no worries about the DEA."

David Monnette, DEA spokesman in El Paso, said: "We hold our workforce to the highest ethical standard, and we regard the ethical performance of duty as our first priority. We take very seriously any allegation of misconduct, abuse of position, or criminal action, and we continue to ensure the fair and impartial administration of justice and uphold the integrity and reputation of our outstanding workforce."

Mr. Sandalio, the former El Paso DEA chief, said: "That's entirely possible that the cartel had a hook in DEA. I'm not going to sit here and tell you there is no corruption in our government. Obviously there is."

'They knew everything'

Regarding the Abraham Guzmán case, Mr. Ramírez denied that he engaged in any freelancing that would have resulted in that slaying. He said that while he was in protective custody in San Antonio, his supervisor, Mr. Bencomo, implied that he should return to the border to help on a case involving a corrupt customs inspector. He said he was told the agency needed him to collect \$25,000 owed to the inspector. Mr. Ramírez said he instead sent Mr. Guzmán, who was shot to death.

"They knew everything," he said. "For them to say I acted on my own is false."

Mr. Bencomo's attorney, Mary Stillinger, rejected that version of events. "That is absolutely not true," she said. "Agent Bencomo had no idea he [Lalo] was coming to El Paso. He was specifically told not to do that."

In his written responses, Mr. Ramírez also rejected assertions Ms. Fielden made in an affidavit

that it was only in late January 2004 that she knew the extent of the informant's role in slayings in Juárez. And he said that far from telling him to stop participating in such criminal activity, his ICE handlers had only one request: that he not tape any future killings. He said he had used hidden microphones to record cartel activities.

The former U.S. informant also impugned authorities in Mexico, saying he worked with corrupt local, state and federal officials, as well as members of the military.

"The Mexican government, the police, the military," he said. "They are the cartel."

In a sworn statement dated Aug. 11 and filed in federal court in Bloomington, Minn., Mr. Ramírez said he was told that the office of the Mexican president had an arrangement with a cartel. He said that Mr. Santillán "explained to me that President [Vicente] Fox took the position to arrange, consult with, the cartel from Juárez. ... He was going to attack the enemy cartels, being from Tijuana and from the Gulf, and then the cartel from Juárez would be operating ... without the government being ... on top of them."

Mr. Ramírez said he personally made arrangements with Colombian drug traffickers to transport drugs with the help of the Mexican navy and federal agents.

The Mexican government flatly denied the allegations.

"Obviously there is no substance to what this man is saying," said Ricardo Cabrera, assistant to the government's top organized crime investigator, José Luis Santiago Vasconcelos. "We have been lauded by the U.S. government for our continuous fight against all drug cartels. This person is saying these things, making allegations of corruption, to save his case and fight deportation to Mexico."

E-mail acorchado@dallasnews.com

DigitalEXTRA

Archives: Log on to read previous stories about Lalo.

DallasNews.com/Extra

help smuggle cocaine into the United States. In 2000, he started working as a U.S.-paid drug informant. He says that he earned \$224,650 over a four-year period and that ICE still owes him \$200,000 for various cases.

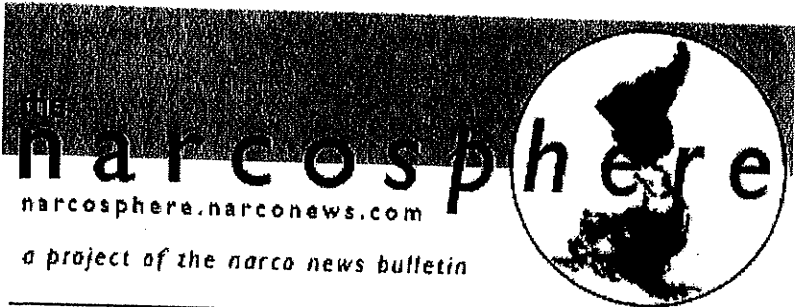
For an agency eager to bring down Mr. Carrillo Fuentes, Lalo was a major find. He was the right-hand man of Heriberto Santillán Tabares, considered a top operative in the Juárez cartel.

Among the scores of traffickers he helped bust was Mr. Santillán, who was sentenced to 25 years in prison in a plea bargain with U.S. prosecutors. In the deal, murder charges against Mr. Santillán were dropped.

Mr. Ramírez said he played the role of drug trafficker to help the U.S. government dismantle the cartel. He said he was in constant contact with his American overseers, talking to them three or four times a day. He said he occasionally briefed other U.S. agencies, including the FBI, the DEA and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

El Paso FBI spokeswoman Andrea Simmons said, "We don't confirm or deny whether we talk with certain people or whether we had any briefings with those people." ATF did not return calls seeking comment.

Mr. González said DEA agents met with the informant for briefings but were not told of his role in



House of Death informant reveals his story to Narco News

By [Bill Conroy](#),
Posted on Mon Oct 9th, 2006 at 11:55:54 PM EST

Over the past two years, Narco News has chronicled the story of a U.S. government informant's role in the House of Death mass murder in Ciudad Juárez.

But, to date, the informant's version of what went down at the House of Death has not seen the light of day, due in large part to his refusal to speak with the media and the U.S. government's efforts to assure his silence.

That silence, though, is about to come to an end.

First, however, for those new to this story, or for those who might need a refresher course on the House of Death mass murder, some background is in order.

The back drop

The informant, Guillermo Ramirez Peyro (also known as "Lalo," and by the codename Jesus Contreras), is a former Mexican cop who helped to run the House of Death under the direction of a narco-trafficker named Heriberto Santillan-Tabares — who was a top lieutenant in the Vicente Carrillo Fuentes (VCF) Juárez drug organization.

Another key player in the House of Death murders was Miguel Loya-Gallegos, an associate of Santillan. Loya was a night-shift commander for the Chihuahua State Judicial Police in Juárez. He was charged with overseeing and directing enforcement activities, such as murders, for Santillan and the VCF.

Loya and several of his associates disappeared without a trace in January 2004.

Santillan-Tabares is now sitting in a U.S. prison under a 25-year sentence as part of a plea bargain reached with U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton, a deal that took all murder charges against the narco-trafficker off the table.

A number of law enforcement sources contend that plea deal was struck as part of a cover-up designed to conceal the U.S. government's complicity in the mass murder.

Between August 2003 and mid-January of 2004, a dozen people were kidnapped, tortured and butchered at the House of Death located at Calle Parsioneros 3633 in Juárez.

Menu

- Home
- English | Español
- Search
- About the NarcoSphere
- Reporters' Notebooks
- Request a Copublisher's Account
- The Narco News Bulletin

Enter the NarcoSphere

Request Account Copublisher Agreement

Username:

Password:

Read Introductions by Our Copublishers

Reporters' Notebooks

- Al Giordano
- Bill Conroy
- Miguel Contreras
- Paul Henry
- Dan Feder
- Nick Cooper
- Stephen Peacock
- Sean Donahue
- Nancy Davies
- Benjamin Melançon
- David Keating
- Dennes Longoria
- Rich Gibson
- Anthony Fenton
- Steve Young
- Juan Trujillo

The dark murder machine was exposed to the sunlight on January 14, 2004, after a DEA agent and his family in Juárez were nearly abducted by Santillan's thugs. In the wake of that incident, DEA was forced to evacuate its personnel from Juárez.

Public records show that Ramirez Peyro assisted with at least one of the murders, though law enforcement sources contend the number was likely far greater than one. Those law enforcement sources also contend that Ramirez Peyro was involved in this murderous activity with the knowledge of an Assistant U.S. Attorney in El Paso, Texas, and his handlers -- federal agents with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), which is part of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Fielden and the informant's ICE handlers, however, deny they were aware of the informant's role in the House of Death murders (after the first murder, at any rate), according to court pleadings filed in a lawsuit brought by the families of the House of Death victims.

According to records obtained by Narco News through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Ramirez Peyro "supervised" and had "limited participation" in the first murder at the House of Death in early August 2003.

In February 2004, after becoming aware of the extent of the bloodshed in the case, Sandalio Gonzalez, who was then head of DEA's operations in El Paso, wrote a memo to Sutton and an ICE official in El Paso to express his outrage at the ICE agents' complicity in the murders -- which ultimately led to the attempt being made on the lives of the DEA agent and his family by narcos connected to the House of Death.

Rather than investigate Gonzalez' allegations, Sutton used his leverage as a U.S. Attorney to retaliate against him, Gonzalez claims. Gonzalez has since retired from the DEA.

The Assistant U.S. Attorney overseeing the House of Death case, Juanita Fielden, in recently filed court pleadings confirms that high-level officials with the Department of Justice and DHS were made aware of the informant's role in the first murder at the House of Death in August 2003. But instead of shutting down the operation at that point, those U.S. officials chose to allow Ramirez Peyro to continue his work at the House of Death -- which was the site of at least 11 more homicides over the ensuing four months.

The U.S. government is now seeking to deport the informant back to Mexico. In legal pleadings pending before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eight Circuit, U.S. government attorneys argue that the informant, who was paid some \$200,000 for his work, faces no danger in Mexico despite the fact that he betrayed powerful members of the VCF drug organization.

The informant, for his part, contends that he will certainly be tortured and killed at the hands of the narco-traffickers he double-crossed if he is forced to return to Mexico.

In prison

Ramirez Peyro is now sitting in a prison in the upper Midwest awaiting his fate at the hands of the U.S. Justice System. Up until now, Ramirez Peyro has been

- Richard Pilkington
- Jeb Sprague
- Tatiana Ovando
- Charlie Hardy
- Jeremy Gordon
- Romina Trincheri
- Diego Mantilla
- George Salzman
- Ricardo Sala
- Randall White
- Luis Gomez
- Teo Ballive
- Ben Masel
- Walt Lyford
- Jeremy Bigwood
- John F. Eden
- Irene Roca Ortiz
- Ron Smith
- Don Henry Ford Jr.
- Kevin Skerrett
- Jean Friedsky
- Gissel Gonzales
- María Eugenia Flores Castro
- José Mirtenbaum
- Manuela Aldabe
- Kevin Gallagher
- Bill Weaver
- Justin Delacour
- Claudia Espinoza
- Andrew Stelzer
- Reber Boulton
- Wim Dankbaar
- Colleen Glynn
- Mike D'Allaire
- Jennifer Whitney
- Laura del Castillo
- Erich Moncada
- Stan Gotlieb
- Alex Satanovsky
- Christopher Fee
- Marcel Miranda
- Nate Johnson
- Daniel Fleming
- Richard Éramian
- Pablo Mamani
- Paul Silvester

silent about his version of the events surrounding the House of Death mass murder.

Recently, though, he agreed to provide interviews to the media from jail. Those interviews were scheduled to take place over the weekend of Oct. 7 and 8, 2006.

However, on Oct. 6 — the Friday before the media was slated to arrive — ICE officials suddenly moved Ramirez Peyro to a different prison. As part of that move, the informant's access to the media was cut off, according to his attorney, Jodi Goodwin.

Though Narco News did not send a reporter to the jail, we did submit a list of written questions to Ramirez Peyro prior to his abrupt relocation. The informant answered those questions and provided the responses to Goodwin, who recently passed them along to Narco News. Other media folks did make the jailhouse trip over this past weekend, but were unable to interview the informant in person. However, with Goodwin's help, they did manage to get some of their questions answered in writing as well — so expect to see more coverage on this matter in the mainstream press in the coming days.

The interview

(Readers, please keep in mind that the informant's responses have to be viewed in the context of his current situation. For example, Ramirez Peyro is likely to answer questions in a way that puts him and his activities in the best light and to assure that he does not jeopardize his ongoing immigration case. In addition, Ramirez Peyro's attorney did translate his responses from Spanish to English and did have the opportunity to review those responses before passing them along to Narco News.)

Where appropriate, Narco News has provided additional context [denoted in italics and brackets] that seems to contradict some of the informant's answers. That additional context is drawn from law enforcement sources and public documents as noted. For a complete run-down of Narco News' coverage of this case to date, including links to hundreds of pages of public records, visit the [House of Death link](#) on the Narco News site.)

RAMIREZ PEYRO: Mr. Conroy:

Thank you for your interest in my version of the facts which, believe me, is the only correct version given that I was the only person that saw the facts and recorded the majority and authorized that my different methods of communication be intercepted so as not to give any footing to doubts with my superiors in ICE or any other government agency.

I am sorry that you were unable to come to see me as I would have liked to speak with you face to face to explain a bit more detail my work with ICE and so that you could discover the grave error that you have made in speaking of me in the manner which I have been told you have based on the opinions of people whose sole purpose is to discredit me.

I have not had the opportunity to read all of your articles due to my precarious situation, but I have read the headlines that you attached

- Andrew Grice
- Franz J.T. Lee
- Chris Herz
- Andrei Tudor
- Nora Callahan
- Charles Faris
- Gurujiwan Khalsa
- Julia Steinberger
- Cynthia McKinney
- Fablo Mesquita
- Yasmin Khan
- Pablo Francischelli
- Baylen Linnekin
- Erik Siegrist
- Natalia Viana
- Amber Howard
- Linda Langness
- Kevin Okabe
- Jeff Simpson
- Christopher Whalen
- Sarah de Haro



Narco News: Top Stories

Paramilitary attacks continue in Oaxaca by John Gibler

Mexico's Presidential Swindle by Al Giordano

Farmers, Ranchers, and the Zapatista Other Campaign Shut Down the Largest Salt Mine on Earth by Al Giordano
[View Comments](#)

Mothers of the Disappeared in Sinaloa by Simon Fitzgerald
[View Comments](#)

What Is the Dallas Morning News smoking? by Bill Conroy
[View Comments](#)

Imagine the Big Hotels, Owned by All of You, and that, Newspapers

with your story pitch and I am very much interested in the reaction the government has had to your coverage.

Following are my answers to your questions. Truthfully, I do not know what are your intentions with this interview but I would like to read whatever you publish from the interview and if you would like, we could get into further detail.
Thank You and God Bless,

NARCO NEWS: What led you to get into the narco-trafficking business? When and how did you first get involved?

RAMIREZ PEYRO: So as not to risk further lives and to not give a course on how to infiltrate a drug trafficking organization, I am not going to answer this question.

NARCO NEWS: Prior to being exposed as a cooperating witness [an informant] for the U.S. government, how would you describe your position within the Vicente Carrillo Fuentes organization and your relationship to Heriberto Santillan-Tabares? Did you have any direct dealings with Vicente Carrillo Fuentes?

RAMIREZ PEYRO: My position was very clear. I was there to obtain information and evidence of the crimes that occurred in Mexico as well as the United States. I worked for the Office of Investigations of the U.S. Customs Service that later changed to BICE [U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement]. My relationship with Santillan from 2001 was very diverse. No, I never had contact with Mr. Vicente.

NARCO NEWS: Why did you decide to become a cooperating witness for the U.S. government? When and how did you make that move?

RAMIREZ PEYRO: Based on an article that I read in a newspaper dealing with the fact that the CIA was contracting foreigners, I went to the International Bridge and asked for information about that program. There, I met Special Agent Raul Bencomo of the OIUSCS [Office of Investigations of the U.S. Customs Service]. He told me that he did not know anything about the CIA program but that he could use me as an informant. Then after a long process of about two months over which we had various meetings principally to clarify that I did not have a criminal record, any arrest warrants or other problems with the law in Mexico or in the U.S.

What were my motives to work with USCS: Basically it was my vocation, police work, and I wanted to be better at it. They went through the process to get me a permit to enter the U.S. given that I did not have anything to use to cross into the U.S. And then about 6 months later, after seeing the quality of my cases, they had to ask for permission from Washington to authorize me as an operative informant. Also, I was ordered to go to the U.S. Consulate to request to see the Consul so that I could tell him that I was sent by someone from the Department of State so that I could be given a visa as it was no longer convenient for me to be using the permit to cross the

Will Be Property of their
Workers by Al Giordano
View Comments

Drummond Faces Dutch
and Colombian
Investigations of
Colombia Coal, Oil
Ventures by Stephen
Flanagan Jackson
View Comments

Police and Government
Thugs Open Fire on
APPO Members by
Enrique Mendez and
Octavio Velez
View Comments

Zapatista Support Bases
Threatened with
Displacement in Choles
de Tumbala by La Otra
Jovel
View Comments

House of Death Informant
Fingers Mexican, U.S.
Governments by Bill
Conroy
2 Comments

Delegate Zero Speaks in
Mazatlán, Sinaloa by
Subcomandante
Insurgente Marcos
View Comments

Marcos: Calderón Will Not
Conclude His Term as
President Due to Social
Unrest by Javier Valdez
Cardenas
View Comments

Delegate Zeros Words at
Teacápán, Sinaloa by
Subcomandante
Insurgente Marcos
View Comments

Banned from Traveling by
Sea, Subcomandante
Marcos Proposes to
Head to Baja California
via the Mexican
Mainland by Al Giordano
3 Comments

From the Coffee Farms of
Chiapas to the Shrimp
Farms of the Sinaloa
Coast, One Common
Struggle by Kristin
Bricker
View Comments

The People of Oaxacas
March for Dignity Heads
Towards Mexico City by
Erwin Slim
View Comments

An Axis of Outcasts? by
Paul Henry

border.

[According to a legal affidavit filed by Assistant U.S. Attorney Juanita Fielden, Ramirez Peyro was caught smuggling drugs across the U.S. border about a month prior to the first murder at the House of Death on Aug. 5, 2003.]

At this time (in June 2003), DEA also was using Ramirez Peyro as an informant. In the wake of the drug bust, though, DEA decided to end its relationship with Ramirez Peyro. ICE officials, in coordination with the U.S. Attorney's Office, decided to continue using the informant, however, in order to make a drug case against the VCF organization. The drug charges against Ramirez Peyro were later dropped at the request of Fielden.]

NARCO NEWS: What was your role in the operations of the house at Calle Parsioneros 3633, [the House of Death] where at least 12 bodies were dug up out of the backyard? For how many of the murders at the house were you actually present? Please provide some detail.

RAMIREZ PEYRO: My role in the house on Parsioneros was the same that I had been doing since 2000: make myself pass off as a criminal and infiltrate different criminal organizations to obtain information and evidence of their activities. I was witness on two occasions that agents of the Judicial Police killed people at that place.

[A gravedigger who assisted Ramirez Peyro at the House of Death confirmed that the informant was physically present for at least five of the murders, according to timeline of events developed by the DEA in the days immediately following the evacuation of its personnel from Juárez.]

In addition, Ramirez Peyro provided a statement to the Mexican government in February 2004 that details far more murders in Juárez that he either was aware of or helped to set up or clean up — including murders at the House of Death.]

NARCO NEWS: How many of the murders at Parsioneros 3633 were recorded through a wire or on tape at the direction of or with the knowledge of ICE officials? Were you ever asked to record anyone in the U.S. or other agents? Were you ever asked by ICE agents to leave your cell phone on so that they could monitor the activities at Parsioneros 3633? Please provide details.

RAMIREZ PEYRO: No murder was recorded at the instruction of the ICE officials because we did not know in advance that a murder would be committed. I made it a habit to record my interviews with the criminals to obtain evidence and to show that my actions were as transparent as possible. And yes, in the U.S. they recorded my interviews and telephone conversations in whatever way they could. No, they never asked me to do such thing.

[It is worth pointing out here some information supplied to Narco News by DHS sources concerning the informant's communication

[View Comments](#)

Subcomandante Marcos Pays Homage to Che Guevara and Praises Cuba by Ángeles Barrios Cabrera
[View Comments](#)

The Zapatistas and the Other Campaign: Pedestrians of History V by the Sixth Commission of the EZLN
[View Comments](#)

APPO, The De Facto Government in Oaxaca, Moves Toward Permanence by Nancy Davies
[View Comments](#)

Search the NarcoSphere

 RSS 1.0



Server, bandwidth & technical assistance for the NarcoSphere is donated by:

voxel dot net
best of breed linux solutions

activities at the time of the first murder at the House of Death. The DHS sources claim that the murder was not only "recorded," as Ramirez Peyro points out, but also monitored in real time as it was happening.

The informant was carrying a transmitting device, imbedded in his cell phone, that allowed audio to be beamed back to ICE's wire unit in El Paso, the sources contend. So, the first murder at the House of Death was not only recorded by that wire unit, but also monitored as it was happening.

One DHS source also claims that the wire unit in ICE's El Paso office, at the time of the first murder, was staffed by contract employees — at least one of whom might have been deep-sixed in the wake of the first House of Death murder.

"It is my belief that one of those contract monitors listened to the whole thing (the murder), and a couple of those contractors (in the wire unit) were, in fact, gone within in a couple of weeks (of the murder)," the DHS source claims.

ICE officials have denied that the murder was monitored in real time by anyone at ICE and claim the informant simply tape-recorded the murder without their knowledge.]

NARCO NEWS: Were there other similar operations in that neighborhood, or in the Juárez area in general, that you were involved with or had knowledge of? If so, could you provide some details on those operations?

RAMIREZ PEYRO: From 2001 which was when they gave me the authorization to infiltrate the VCFO [Vicente Carrillo Fuentes Organization], I reported various incidents similar to this, and I stated unconditionally the highest of risk that I was running given that this organization and its members do not hesitate to kill and they laugh at their murders.

NARCO NEWS: Were ICE agents aware of the fact that people were being tortured and murdered at Parsioneros 3633? If so, did they encourage you to continue your undercover involvement in those activities? If they were aware, how many murders did they allow to occur after they had that knowledge?

RAMIREZ PEYRO: As soon as I had the opportunity, which was about two hours after the death of [the first House of Death murder victim, Mexican lawyer Fernando] Reyes, I met in the regional offices of BICE (which was where we normally met) with my control agent and other special agents, supervisors of the group, the head of the supervisors and agents of the Sheriff and I told them all about the situation and got them up to speed and I turned over to them the recording of the events.

After several hours of work and making the RAC [Resident Agent in Charge] aware and he communicating with Washington and Mexico, I was ordered to continue my work on the case and to comply with the

instructions that Santillan gave me for that night and then to return to the BICE office when I finished, which was in the early hours of the morning.

[After Ramírez Peyro's U.S. government handlers debriefed him about the first murder, they allowed him to return to the House of Death to pay a gravedigger \$2,000 for burying the body, according to the DEA's timeline of events.]

NARCO NEWS: Which U.S. officials from ICE, DEA or the U.S. Attorney's Office did you report your activities to during the time period that the murders at 3633 Parsioneros took place (early August 2003 to mid-January 2004)? Specifically, whom did you report to when you returned to El Paso from your many trips to Juarez during that time period? Which of those people had knowledge of the murders, yet allowed them to continue? (Please provide names.)

RAMIREZ PEYRO: I don't want to name the agents and put them in danger. I will tell you that I was in contact with two anti-narcotic groups and one anti-fraud group as well as ICE Intelligence, DEA Juarez agents, the ones that were involved in the incident on January 14, 2004, and people from the Sheriff's office.

NARCO NEWS: Are you aware of any officials with ICE or the U.S. Attorney's office destroying or altering reports or evidence? Did any U.S. government officials ever instruct you to lie or pay you money to encourage your silence with respect to their actions related to the 3633 Parsioneros murders? (Please provide details and names.)

RAMIREZ PEYRO: I never knew of anyone destroying evidence and no one ever offered me money for my silence with respect to the house on Parsioneros.

NARCO NEWS: Are you aware of an ICE official ever making a payment to you by using a dead cooperating witnesses' source number? (This would have been evident in that the source payment receipt, SF 293, for such a payment would have utilized a CI number other than the one assigned to you.) If you can confirm this, please you provide details on why it was done, who did it and what explanation, if any, was provided to you?

RAMIREZ PEYRO: I never received a payment that was not in the name that I used for this purposes, on the other hand, there are many cases that I have never been paid for my work.

[Law enforcement sources told Narco News that allegedly one high-level ICE supervisor in El Paso, sometime between March and June of 2004, did put a payment through to Ramirez Peyro using a dead informant's "source number," which is a number assigned to all confidential sources in order to keep their identity secret. The sources claim the payment was made that way in an effort to conceal that the money was being paid to Ramirez Peyro.]

NARCO NEWS: Did any U.S. law enforcement officials ever visit the

house at Parsioneros 3633 prior to the time the DEA agent and his family were stopped by the police on Jan. 14, 2004? If so, who and when and under what circumstances?

RAMIREZ PEYRO: No.

NARCO NEWS: When the Mexican police stopped the DEA agent and his family on Jan. 14, 2004, were they aware ahead of time that he might, in fact, be a DEA agent? How would you describe the relationship between Santillan, Mexican State Police Commander Miguel Loya and the Mexican police who carried out that traffic stop? Did anyone at ICE or the U.S. Attorney's office have prior knowledge that the DEA agent and his family were going to be targeted?

RAMIREZ PEYRO: No, the police didn't know who was involved. In fact, this was the reason for his detention so that he could be identified and I understand that he said he was a member of the Diplomatic Corp of the U.S. The relation of Miguel Loya, Santillan and the police that detained the DEA is simple and stated to be as accomplices. No, no one knew about the situations with the DEA. In fact ICE and the U.S. Attorneys Office came to be aware of it through me as I was asked to investigate the names of the agents to find out really and truly who they were.

NARCO NEWS: After the incident on January 14, 2004, when the police stopped the DEA agent and his family, were you willing to meet with DEA agents and Mexican authorities to help with their investigation? If so, why didn't you meet with them?

RAMIREZ PEYRO: Of course I was willing to help with the investigation. I even met with the DEA agents, principally the two implicated in this matter.

[One of the individuals allegedly behind the traffic stop of the DEA agent and his family, Mexican police commander Miguel Loya, disappeared in January 2004 after DEA officials were unsuccessful in trying to arrange a meeting between him and Ramirez Peyro. The purpose of arranging that meeting was to create an opportunity for Mexican federal agents to swoop in and arrest Loya. ICE officials in El Paso jammed up the effort and would not let the Ramirez Peyro arrange the meeting out of fear it would compromise the informant, according to the DEA's timeline of events prepared in the wake of the House of Death murders.]

NARCO NEWS: U.S. officials frequently imply that all the drug war corruption along the border is among Mexican law enforcement agents. Have you seen or heard evidence of complicity by U.S. officials, particularly higher-level officials, in allowing drugs or other contraband to cross the border?

RAMIREZ PEYRO: Yes, regrettably, corruption exists in the U.S. also. I heard of several cases and was able to close one of them out.

NARCO NEWS: How does a shipment of cocaine or other contraband enter the U.S.? Could you elaborate on that?

RAMIREZ PEYRO: There are many ways to bring drugs and other things in the U.S. but I am not going to mention those here as that is not the purposes of this interview.

NARCO NEWS: In your mind, will the 700-mile wall approved recently by the U.S. House, if actually built, stop or slow the flow of illegal drugs?

RAMIREZ PEYRO: Slow up a bit maybe, but not stop.

NARCO NEWS: What can you tell us about how illicit proceeds are "laundered" to make the money appear "clean"? And which sectors make the profits off of that? Are they the "cartels" (as U.S. law enforcement agencies call them)? Or are "respected" bankers and businessmen also involved?

RAMIREZ PEYRO: I am not going to talk about this.

NARCO NEWS: In your mind, why do you think no one at ICE or the U.S. Attorney's office has been held accountable for their actions, or lack of actions, in the Parsioneros 3633 murders? Do you believe there is an ongoing cover-up of the U.S. government's complicity in these murders? Do you have any first-hand knowledge of the details of that cover-up (please elaborate)?

RAMIREZ PEYRO: I am not familiar with the basis or foundation of the law, but I did trust and confide that the agents and members of the other federal agencies that were directing the operations did so in the manner that they should and that to me was obviously the right thing to do, but now I know that it was not like that at all. I do not believe that the government of the U.S. is an accomplice to the events at Parsioneros [the House of Death].

NARCO NEWS: Why do you think the U.S. government is now trying to send you back to Mexico, where you almost certainly will face retribution from the VCF organization?

RAMIREZ PEYRO: I believe that the cowardice attitude of the U.S. government is the work of corrupt elements that are not in agreement with the disruptive effect that we had on the VCFO and they want to turn me over to them so that I will be executed and then they can wipe their hands clean.

NARCO NEWS: Are you aware of any involvement on the part of "legitimate" businessmen, politicians, narco-traffickers or Mexican law enforcement (particularly Mexican State Police Commander Miguel Loya and his men) in the continuing murders of women (the femicides) in Juarez?

RAMIREZ PEYRO: No.

NARCO NEWS: What was Miguel Loya's role in the Parsioneros 3633 operation? Do you believe ICE and the U.S. Attorney's Office purposely allowed Miguel Loya to escape? If so, why? If not, why do

you think they undermined DEA's and the Mexican government's efforts to enlist your help in pursuing Loya after the DEA agent and his family were targeted by Santillan's men?

RAMIREZ PEYRO: The role of Miguel Loya was that of murderer. I don't believe that ICE or the U.S. Attorneys office permitted this. However, honestly, since the 15 of January of 2004, I do not have idea how things were handled. And it is my opinion that the sad part of the whole thing is that instead of standing together, the various agencies of the U.S. government worry themselves with criticizing each other and fighting amongst themselves like a bunch of old women from the neighborhood.

And by this infighting they caused the loss of many years of work, human resources. And instead of using the information to benefit the public, it all ends up benefiting the criminal organizations.

NARCO NEWS: Do you know what happened to Commander Loya and others involved in the Parsioneros 3633 operation who got away?

RAMIREZ PEYRO: No, I don't know.

NARCO NEWS: What is it that you regret most about your involvement in the narco-trafficking world and as a cooperating witness for the U.S. government? Is there anything that you are proud of in terms of that work?

RAMIREZ PEYRO: What I most regret is that lives were lost and probably more lives will be lost. After the closure of the investigation because of the fighting between the different federal agencies, the information leaks, and the bad faith with which they distorted the facts.

Despite all of the lies that have published about me, I am the only one that ever saw all of the processing of the different cases I worked on. Given that the agents only listened, they would never go with me, I am relieved by the satisfaction that God helped me through each difficult moment, which were many, and He permitted that tons and tons of drugs not make it into the hands of the addicts, and that many criminals had their operations truncated.

NARCO NEWS: Did officials with ICE or the U.S. Attorney's Office ever promise you that your immigration status would be upgraded so that you could stay in the U.S. in exchange for your assistance as a cooperating witness? Did officials with ICE or the U.S. Attorney's office ever coerce you in any way — such as threatening to send you or your family back to Mexico to assure your continued cooperation? Please elaborate.

RAMIREZ PEYRO: Yes, the ICE officials and the U.S. Attorneys promised me permanent residence in the U.S. and the same for the ones I needed. The cases would close in a manner most convenient to ICE, and more dangerous for me.

The only time that the government threatened me with deporting my family wasn't in order to assure my cooperation as a witness, because I had always done whatever they asked me to with respect to the investigations.

No, they threatened my family with deportation unless I agreed to be put in jail and also because according to them they feared for my life. Curiously, 8 months later they are saying they want to deport me to a sure death, that situation up to now, I am still fighting.

NARCO NEWS: What is it that you want out of this whole mess at this time? In other words, what would you consider a just resolution of your fate?

RAMIREZ PEYRO: That ICE follow-through with each promise made to me just as I complied with them.

NARCO NEWS: What else would you like to convey to the readers about your situation that has not been addressed to date?

RAMIREZ PEYRO: Principally that I am not a murderer, that the FBI and the police of El Paso have questioned me with respect to this and even gave me a polygraph test to prove that I did not murder anyone nor did I order the murder of anyone. That unfortunately in order to infiltrate a criminal organization that is one of the most powerful and dangerous, I had to witness the death of three people. Without being able to do anything other than what I did given that it was the Mexican authorities that did the killing. I was absolutely alone and the only thing I could do was to get evidence to stop the situation through the U.S. authorities. And that I also was able to uncover evidence for other murders as well even though I was not present and not only at Parsioneros.

In the four years that I worked for ICE making myself off to be a mafioso I was able to infiltrate various criminal organizations and obtained evidence needed so that those involved could be arrested. But all I could do was obtain evidence, I was not able to arrest, prosecute, or judge anyone. That was the job of the agencies that I worked for.

Thanks to God, we never caused the death of anyone during the four years that I worked as an informant. On multiple occasions agents almost blew my cover placing the lives of everyone involved in danger.

That the people who were buried at Parsioneros and others died because of different reasons, but all had to do with the criminal activity they were involved with, very apart from me and ICE, with or against the cartel.

[Although many of the individuals killed at the House of Death were likely connected to narco-trafficking, at least one person, a 29-year-old U.S. legal resident and father of three, appears to have been picked up by the House of Death hit squad by mistake, according to a civil lawsuit filed by victim's family.]

That it has been said that there are investigations into the house at Parsioneros street but curiously, no one, not one of these investigators has ever talked to me, to the contrary ICE is trying to deport me to a sure death not necessarily to cover up the fact that they don't care about the lives lost but rather to confirm that theory: they DON't care about the lives lost and that is something even darker than we know within the US government.

Lastly, I want to add that the people who have commented with the reporters, the reporters and the lawsuit that was filed by the Attorney Loya [the lawyer for the families of the House of Death victims] have all been based on lies by people that were NOT present and do not know what and how things happened and these same people have misinformed the public totally and I am ready and willing to clear the air with respect to this situation. Thanks.

House of Death informant reveals his story to Narco News | 1 comment (1 topical, 0 hidden)

Display:

Witness to murder in the House of Death? (4.00 / 1) (#1)
by Bill Conroy on Wed Oct 11th, 2006 at 11:46:44 PM EST
([User Info](#))

It seems wise at this point, after having allowed the House of Death Informant Guillermo Ramirez Peyro his say in the story above, to provide some additional information concerning his known role in the House of Death murders so that you, the readers, can better discern for yourselves where the line falls between witnessing and participating in a homicide.

The informant Guillermo Ramirez Peyro, in his interview with Narco News, contends he is not a murderer and that he only was a "witness" to murder.

However, Narco News' coverage has indicated from the start that the informant Ramirez Peyro was, in fact, a participant in some, if not most, of the murders at the House of Death.

So there is clearly a contradiction here.

Following are some facts that need to be weighed against the informant's claims for you to decide on where the line of truth falls in this matter. These facts have not been provided by unnamed sources, but rather come from public records dug up by Narco News during its more than two-year odyssey into the House of Death.

In the story above, the following is pointed out as background:

A gravedigger who assisted Ramirez Peyro at the House of Death confirmed that the informant was physically present for at least five of the murders, according to timeline of events developed by the DEA in the days immediately following the evacuation of its personnel from Juárez.

In addition, Ramirez Peyro provided a statement to the Mexican

government in February 2004 that details far more murders in Juárez that he either was aware of or helped to set up or clean up — including murders at the House of Death.

The "statement" referred to in this case is a debriefing of the informant Ramirez Peyro carried out on Feb. 12, 2004, by an assistant legal attaché for the Attorney General's Office of Mexico.

If you go to that statement on the Narco News Web site, you will find the following on page 7:

On this occasion I went and bought a tarp to cover the floor. I bought eight bags of lime and went to pick up Alejandro jr., leaving him in charge of digging the hole and burying the bodies. The last execution I know of was on January 13 of this year (2004). The engineer Santillan [the narco-trafficker at the center of the House of Death investigation] asked me to have the house ready because he was going to have some "grilled meat." Later, at 10:00 in the evening, he told me to hold off but to start early in the morning. So then at around 8:00 in the morning he spoke with me and told me to send someone to the house to be waiting, so I sent my buddy Jose Jalme Marquez, who went to open the door of the Parsioneros 3633 house [the House of Death].

That little tidbit is taken from a statement provided by Ramirez Peyro himself. And if you read the entire document, you'll find far more details that seem to go far beyond the simple act of being a witness to murder.

A U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) memo obtained by Narco News through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request also points out that Ramirez Peyro purchased duct tape and lime for the first House of Death murder on Aug. 5, 2003, involving the Mexican lawyer Fernando Reyes. In fact, the memo states that Ramirez Peyro actually helped to restrain Reyes during the act of the murder itself.

(A redacted FOIA version of that ICE memo is on the Narco News site here, but you can find an unredacted version of the memo on the Web site of WFAA-TV, the ABC affiliate in Dallas.)

From that Aug. 25, 2003, ICE memo, detailing the first House of Death murder on Aug. 5, 2003:

The participants in the murder were Alex Garcia and two Juarez Judicial Police Officers. SA-913-EP [Ramirez Peyro's informant source number] supervised the murder and had minimal participation in the act.

... Santillan told SA-913-EP that they were planning to kill "Fernando" [Reyes, the lawyer killed in the first House of Death murder on Aug. 5, 2003] and he needed SA-913-EP to go with two Judicial Police Officers to the house where the murder was to take place. [The narco-trafficker] Santillan told SA-913-EP that he and Garcia would arrive with Fernando, at which time, the murder would take place.

Later in the memo:

SA-913-EP told Santillan that he/she would take his/her own vehicle, because he/she [meaning Ramirez Peyro] was going to buy some lime and duct tape, and that he/she would meet the two Police officers at the residence [the House of Death.]

... Fernando continued to fight, at which time, the two Police officers and Garcia push Fernando to the ground and began to tape his hands.

Fernando begins to kick his legs, at which time Garcia looked at SA-913-EP. The look made SA-913-EP feel uncomfortable. Based on the look, SA-913-EP felt forced to assist in the restraining of Fernando by the legs.

... One of the police officers then grabbed an extension cord and wrapped it around Fernando's neck.

The police officer then began to violently pull on the cord in an attempt to choke out Fernando.

... One of the police officers grabbed the plastic bag and placed it over Fernando's head.

Garcia then began to wrap duct tape around the bag; therefore suffocating Fernando.

... One of the police officers then went and grabbed a shovel and began to strike Fernando in the back of the neck area.

SA-913-EP stated that he/she believed the violent striking of the neck caused it to break.

And note, kind readers, this memo recounts Ramirez Peyro's version of the murder as he relayed it to his ICE handlers. It is not beyond reason to suspect it might be a very sanitized version of his actual role in the murder. So at a minimum he admits to knowing a murder was going to be committed in advance, helping to stage that murder, and then helping to carry out that murder — all while working for the U.S. government as an informant for ICE.

Former DEA Special Agent in Charge Sandy Gonzalez' now famous Feb. 24, 2004, memo to U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton in San Antonio references that first murder as well. The letter and a host of other documents can be found at the bottom of this [link](#) on the Narco News Web site.

From Gonzalez' [letter](#):

During his debriefing by ICE agents, the CS (Ramirez Peyro) admitted to killing Fernando as well as to knowing the exact location of the burial site because following the debriefing, he went back to the house in Juárez to give money to Alex Garcia (one of Santillan's henchmen). This information is in the ICE debriefing report dated August 25, 2003.

Gonzalez also details Ramirez Peyro's foreknowledge of yet three more House of Death murders in that memo:

Your [ICE's] CS [Ramirez Peyro] knew on January 13, 2004, that Santillan was planning a "carne asada" for the Parsioneros house [the House of Death] the following day, and nothing was done about it until Santillan called your CS on the night of the 14th to check the names of our agents [who had been stopped in Juárez by Santillan's men]. By that time, three more human beings had been tortured and killed.

And the passage below is from a Narco News story based on the DEA timeline of events — a DEA document that Narco news obtained which details day-by-day, sometimes down to the hour, the DEA's investigation into the circumstances that led to one of its agents (and his family) being stopped in Juárez by Santillan's men

Aug. 5, 2003: The informant participates in the torture and murder of the first homicide victim in the House of Death. The murder involves a conspiracy between Ramirez Peyro and Santillan, and others, to steal about a 1,000 pounds of marijuana from the individual (Fernando). Ramirez Peyro poses as a drug mule who is offering to move the dope across the border and deliver it to Fernando's contacts.

Santillan drives Fernando to the House of Death, located at Calle Parsioneros 3633 in Juárez. Fernando, at the time, had no idea of the fate that awaited him. After Fernando enters the house, Santillan left the location. Ramirez Peyro was waiting for Fernando inside the House of Death, along with the caretaker for the house and two Chihuahua State Police officers. Together, they tortured and murdered Fernando.

In the wake of the murder, the informant Ramirez Peyro left the House of Death and hooked up with Santillan, indicating to him that he had left another individual with the responsibility of disposing of Fernando's body. Then Ramirez Peyro returned to El Paso and met with his ICE handlers. Later in the evening, Ramirez Peyro again returned to the House of Death in Juárez. The caretaker of the residence showed Ramirez Peyro where the body was buried (in the backyard of the house). Contreras then paid the caretaker \$2,000.

With all those facts (and there are more), there appears to be a strong case for claiming the informant Ramirez Peyro did know in advance about some, if not most, of the murders and actually did far more than "witness" them. It stretches credibility to believe his U.S. government handlers were unaware of his involvement in these acts, given that they were supposed to be "closely" monitoring him after the first murder. And Assistant U.S. Attorney Juanita Fielden is already on the record in a sworn affidavit indicating that the government did know about the first House of Death murder, yet still authorized Ramirez Peyro to continue his work at the House of Death.

So, you decide, kind reader, was the informant a "witness" or a participant in these crimes? And beyond that, what level of complicity in these acts would you assign to the U.S. government agents and prosecutors charged with overseeing the informant and the House of Death case?

Is this a case where Pontius Pilate should be allowed to wash his hands of the blood?

--
Bill Conroy

House of Death Informant reveals his story to Narco News 1 comment (1 topical, 0 hidden)
Display: <input type="text" value="nested"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="text" value="Oldest First"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="button" value="set"/>

[Return to The NarcoSphere Homepage](#)

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
EL PASO DIVISION

JANET PADILLA, ET AL.

Plaintiffs,

vs.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
GIOVANNI GAUDIOSO, ET AL.
Defendants,

§
§
§
§
§
§
§
§
§
§

Civil Action No. EP 05-CA-0478

JUDGE MONTALVO

AFFIDAVIT OF JANET PADILLA

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Janet Padilla known to me to be the person whose name appears below, who upon being duly sworn, deposes and states the following:


“My name is Janet Padilla. I am over the age of twenty-one (21) years and in all ways competent to make this affidavit. All of the facts stated herein are within my personal knowledge and are true and correct.

I have been a legal resident of the United States since 1986 and I am eligible to become a citizen. I was married to Luis Padilla in 1996 and remained very close to him during our marriage. We have three children. I spoke to my husband at least four or five times a day on his cell phone.

On or about January 14, 2004 my husband left the house in the morning but never made it to work at International Freight Line Service where he worked as a mechanic. He did not answer his telephone. I began to search for him. Shortly thereafter, all his family members began to search. That same day we found my husband’s car with the keys in the ignition and the door open. It appeared that the inside of the car had been thoroughly searched. And, the gate to the property was left open. It appeared that whoever left the property, left in a hurry. I became extremely frightened for my husband’s safety.

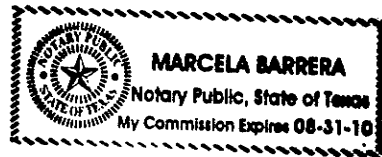
After that morning, I never saw my husband again. I reported the disappearance to the local authorities. Two weeks after his disappearance, the Mexican authorities in Juarez Mexico, Antisequestro, (Anti-sequestration) department called me to identify a body. I found my husband. Although his body had partially decomposed, there were obvious signs of abuse. His hands and feet had been bound with duct tape. His head and mouth were also partially bound with duct tape. His pants were soaked in blood especially in the groin area. It appeared to me that Luis, my husband, had been tortured to death.


Further affiant sayeth not.”


Janet Padilla

Subscribed and sworn to me, this 6th day of October 2006 to certify which witness my hand and official seal.

SEAL:




Notary Public for the State of Texas