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34TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
EL PASO, HUDSPETH, AND CULBERSON COUNTIES**

**MEDIA ADVISORY: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, August 22, 2025

**EL PASO MAN SENTENCED TO 27 YEARS IN PRISON FOR MURDERING UNCLE**

EL PASO, Texas (08/22/2025) – An El Paso jury has convicted a man and sentenced him to nearly three decades in prison for murdering his uncle.

On Tuesday, Aug. 19, Angel Hinojos, 23, was found guilty of one count of murder, a first-degree felony. Hinojos shot at his aunt and uncle, Maria and Jesus Lopez, on May 29, 2022, outside the Jalisco Cafe in the Segundo Barrio neighborhood of South El Paso. Maria Lopez was wounded, but survived. Jesus Lopez was shot four times and succumbed to his injuries. Hinojos had lived with his uncle at the time of the shooting.

The jury trial began on Tuesday, Aug. 12 with witness and expert testimony in the 327th District Court with Judge Monique Velarde-Reyes presiding. The jury began deliberating on the morning of Aug. 19 and took three hours to reach a guilty verdict. Testimony and evidence was presented in the sentencing hearing on Aug. 20, and the jury began deciding on a sentence the following day.

After three hours of deliberations, the jury denied the defendant was moved by “sudden passion” prior to committing the fatal shooting and handed down a sentence of 27 years in prison.

"I commend the jury for recognizing that the dangerous and deadly act committed by the Defendant was one of intent, and not self-defense or sudden passion," said District Attorney James Montoya. "It was a choice by the Defendant to shoot and kill his uncle in the middle of the street on a Sunday afternoon. I give condolences to the Lopez family, who lost their loved one and testified against another one."

Assistant District Attorneys Josh Avila and Danielle Escontrias represented the State of Texas in the prosecution of this case.

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