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NEWS RELEASE

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RE: Cause No.: 07-CR-01322-B
State of Texas v. Francisco Salazar Gonzalez – D.O.B. 11/14/1949

13th Court of Appeals affirms Gonzalez’s conviction of Murder

Brownsville, Texas – August 25, 2010 – Armando R. Villalobos, County and District Attorney for Cameron County, announces today that the 13th Court of Appeals affirmed the conviction of 60-year-old Francisco Salazar Gonzalez, of Harlingen, Texas.

“We are pleased with the ruling of the Court and hope that this will bring closure and comfort to the victims’ surviving family,” Chief First Assistant District Attorney Charles E. Mattingly Jr. said.

A three-judge panel of the Court of Appeals handed down an unpublished memorandum opinion on August 24, 2010, where they overruled all of Gonzalez’s arguments and affirmed his conviction for the 2007 murder of his wife, 47-year-old Toni Lynn Sasek Gonzalez.

On May 6, 2007, Gonzalez shot his wife, Toni Lynn, outside their Harlingen home off of Bass Blvd. Three days later on May 9, 2007, Francisco was arrested by the Cameron County Sheriff’s Office.

A jury in the 138th Judicial District Court found Gonzalez guilty in October of 2008 and sentenced him to life in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice – Institutional Division.

Gonzalez now has the option of filing a motion for rehearing with the Court of Appeals, or asking the Court of Criminal Appeals to review the Court of Appeals’ decision by filing a Petition for Discretionary Review.

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For more information, contact the Cameron County and District Attorney's Office at (956) 544-0849.

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