

**News Release from
The Honorable Sandra Doorley
Monroe County District Attorney**

March 20, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
COMMUNITY RELATIONS DIRECTOR: Calli Marianetti
Monroe County District Attorney's Office
47 South Fitzhugh Street
Rochester, NY 14614
(585) 753-4532

Jorge Santana-Torres Sentenced to 25 Years to Life for the Murder of Alexis Mercedes

Rochester, NY- Wednesday, March 20, 2024, New York State Supreme Court Justice Renzi sentenced 36-year-old Jorge Santana-Torres to 25 years to Life in the New York State Department of Corrections. He was previously convicted by a jury of Murder in the 2nd Degree and two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree for the murder of Alexis Mercedes.

On November 19, 2022, at approximately 3:00AM, Rochester Police Officers arrived at a house on Lochner Place in response to a shooting. Upon arrival, they located 35-year-old Alexis Mercedes inside the house with a gunshot wound to the head. He was deceased upon arrival.

After a thorough investigation, the Rochester Police Department identified Jorge Santana-Torres as the shooter. The following May, investigators located the defendant in Ohio. Rochester Police Investigators and members of the United States Marshals Violent Felony Fugitive Task Force apprehended Santana-Torres in Middletown Ohio, where he was arrested for the murder.

The case was prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Jonathan Jirik, of the Vehicular Crimes Bureau.

“Jorge Santana-Torres knew exactly what he was doing when he executed Alexis Mercedes before fleeing the state,” said Assistant District Attorney Jonathan Jirik. “During a party, the defendant put many lives at risk when he shot Alexis Mercedes, killing him. I want to thank the community for their cooperation and the Major Crimes Unit at the Rochester Police Department for their detailed investigation, resulting in today’s life sentence.”

“In a cowardly act, Jorge Santana-Torres murdered Alexis Mercedes before fleeing New York State to evade law enforcement,” said District Attorney Sandra Doorley. “It is finally time for Jorge Santana-Torres to face the consequences of his actions in the New York State Department of Corrections. I want to thank the Rochester Police Department and the United States Marshals Violent Felony Fugitive Task Force for apprehending this violent offender. Our community is safer with today’s maximum sentence.”

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