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Killer in 1998 Rosenberg robbery 'very quiet' at execution

By ALLAN TURNER
HOUSTON CHRONICLE
April 27, 2010, 7:45PM



Samuel Bustamante, 40, was executed Tuesday, April 29, for the 1998 fatal stabbing of Rafael Alvarado from Mexico during an attempted robbery.

HUNTSVILLE — Samuel Bustamante, sentenced to die for stabbing a man to death during a 1998 robbery in Rosenberg, silently went to his death in the state's execution chamber Tuesday.

The lethal drugs were administered at 6:14 p.m. He was declared dead eight minutes later.

Bustamante made no final statement. Four women, identified as Bustamante's friends, witnessed the execution. No victim's witnesses were present.

Bustamante killed Rafael Alvarado early on the morning of Jan. 18, 1998, after Bustamante and three companions spotted him walking near a Rosenberg tavern.

Bustamante's group had cruised the neighborhoods surrounding the city's bars in search of potential robbery victims.

After Alvarado, 27, accepted a ride with the men, Bustamante stabbed him 10 times.

Earlier Tuesday, Bustamante, 40, met with friends, Walls Unit Warden Charles O'Reilly and a prison chaplain.

"He answered questions with 'yes' and 'no'" said prison spokesman Jason Clark. "He was very quiet."

For his last meal, Bustamante ordered four fried chicken legs and thigh quarters, macaroni and cheese, fried okra, jalapeno peppers, 10 flour tortillas and a six pack of cola.

Justices' rejection

Bustamante's execution happened about 90 minutes after the U.S. Supreme Court declined to review an earlier state court decision that the killer failed to qualify as mentally retarded.

Bustamante's Houston lawyers, Philip Hilder and James Ryttner, argued that their client was mildly mentally retarded, and therefore covered by the Supreme Court's 2002 ruling that banned execution of mentally retarded killers.

"They make a murder look very easy," said Houston anti-capital punishment activist Gloria Rubac, who was among Bustamante's friends. "They've gotten very good at it."

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Previously, Bustamante had been convicted of theft, burglary and possession of a prohibited weapon. Shortly after his conviction in the Alvarado case, Bustamante pleaded guilty to murdering a homeless El Campo man.

Bustamante's brother, Bill Bustamante, was an accomplice in the El Campo killing and is serving a 40-year murder sentence.

Bustamante's accomplices in Alvarado's murder — Diedrich Depriest, Arthur Escamilla and Walter Escamilla — were sentenced to eight years for aggravated robbery and since have been released.

Bustamante was the seventh Texas killer to be executed this year, and the fourth killer from Fort Bend County to be put to death since the state resumed executions in 1982.

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Move them down the hall and reload the needles - NEXT!

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hookum_ wrote:

"They make a murder look very easy," said Houston anti-capital punishment activist Gloria Rubac, who was among Bustamante's friends. "They've gotten very good at it."

=====

It was YOUR guilty client that murdered...and yes he made it look easy and did it with glee. For the fun of killing. He should have never lived this long...and one day karma WILL slip right up on you and hyou will know how the victims and there families felt...don't know how you can look ourself in the mirror...or sleep

(1421)