

Note: This follow-up story was developed from a court appearance and an exclusive interview with two boys accused of killing an alleged rapist and child pornographer. I took the photo that ran in the paper.

Teenagers say man deserved to die

BY SERGIO CHAPA
The Brownsville Herald

MATAMOROS, March 8, 2006 — Two Mexican teenagers said on Tuesday that the man they are accused of killing deserved to die.

Jorge Enrique Carrillo Huerta, 18, and Adrian Emmanuel Trinidad Carmona, 16, said if they hadn't killed 28-year-old Paulino Gerardo Valdez, he would have continued to victimize them and other children.

The two teens were arraigned Tuesday before Judge Andres Escamilla Gonzalez with the second Tamaulipas state District Court in Matamoros on murder and robbery charges.

The teens said Valdez raped them and other children, in addition to recording the acts and blackmailing several men who had sex with Valdez and other boys.



Trinidad is accused of stabbing Valdez on Jan. 24 in the neck and 45 more times throughout his body.

Carrillo is accused of helping to clean up the blood, bury the body under the rear patio of the house and hide the murder weapon in a burned and abandoned maquiladora in the city's Industrial Park.

Following their Tuesday afternoon arraignments, the two teens said they did not regret killing Valdez.

Trinidad claims he endured months of sexual abuse and killed Valdez out of self-defense when the 28-year-old man tried to rape him, according to his written statement.

When asked why he killed Valdez, Trinidad quickly replied, "Because of what he did to the others, to my friend and to me."

Both Trinidad and Carrillo said Valdez would have continued to rape both of them and other children if he had not been killed.

State-appointed attorneys for the two boys said they each face 20 to 50 years in prison but are trying to get reduced charges and prison time based on "self-defense" claims and other circumstances of the case.

Prosecutors and investigators said the two boys stole \$200 from Valdez after they killed him and did not report his death.

Tamaulipas State Police found Valdez's body buried underneath the rear patio of his Calle Oasis home on Friday after his father came to Matamoros from their family home in Veracruz and filed a missing person's report.

An investigation led authorities to arrest the two teens after they learned they had been living with Valdez.

Carrillo said he met Valdez in April through a mutual friend who they played soccer with, according to his written statement.

Carrillo said he moved in with Valdez in October after getting into an argument with his father.

The teenager said he quickly realized that Valdez used intravenous drugs and worshipped the Santisima Muerte, or Saint Death, a religious figure in Mexican culture for the oppressed, criminals and others.

Carrillo said Valdez had a figure of the Santisima Muerte, as well as large painting of it on his kitchen wall.

The teenager said Trinidad moved in a couple months later and they lived together peacefully until Valdez raped Trinidad.

Carrillo told police he did not believe Trinidad until Valdez grabbed him by the arm and shot unknown drugs into his forearm.

Valdez allegedly raped an intoxicated Carrillo, videotaped the acts and threatened to have the boy's parents killed if he told anyone. Carrillo claims the abuse was repeated 13 more times before Trinidad killed Valdez.

Trinidad told police he moved back with his parents but that Valdez came looking for him at school and through threats persuaded him to move back.

On the day Valdez was killed, Carrillo told police that he went to give his sister a ride but came home to find blood everywhere, Valdez's body in the living room and Trinidad crying.

Trinidad claims he killed Valdez out of self-defense because the 28-year-old man tried to rape him again.

Carrillo said Valdez had three VHS tapes that depicted him, Trinidad and other boys being raped.

Mexican authorities are searching for the tapes to verify claims that Valdez earned a living by blackmailing men from Matamoros and Brownsville and that he possibly sold them as child pornography.

Carrillo said the tapes were not distributed as child pornography but rather used to blackmail at least three men from Matamoros.

The teenage murder suspect said that Valdez's brother, Hilario, has the tapes at his Matamoros home.

Tamaulipas State Prosecutor Ernesto Eduardo Saenz Fragoso said Mexican police would search the home but had not done so at press time Tuesday.

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