

CASE NO. CR-2968-11-B (COUNT TWO)

THE STATE OF TEXAS
VS
GRACIELA CASAS ARJONA

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§

IN THE 93RD DISTRICT COURT
OF
HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

CHARGE OF THE COURT

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY:

The Defendant, GRACIELA CASAS ARJONA, stands charged by indictment with the offense of Capital Murder alleged to have been committed in Hidalgo County, Texas, on or about JUNE 23, 2010, and to this charge the Defendant has pleaded not guilty.

1.

Our law provides that a person commits the offense Murder if he intentionally or knowingly causes the death of an individual.

A person commits Capital Murder when such person commits the murder for remuneration of the promise of remuneration.

By the term "remuneration," as used in this charge, is meant payment by one person to another in compensation of a specific service or services rendered pursuant to an agreement there for.

2.

A person acts intentionally, or with intent, with respect to a result of his conduct when it is his conscious objective or desire to cause the result.

A person acts knowingly or with knowledge, with respect to a result of his conduct when he is aware that his conduct is reasonably certain to cause the result.

A person is criminally responsible if the result would not have occurred but for his conduct.

3.

All persons are parties to an offense who are guilty of acting together in the commission of an offense. A person is criminally responsible as a party to an offense if the offense is committed by his own conduct, by the conduct of another for which he is criminally responsible, or by both.

A person is criminally responsible for an offense committed by the conduct of another if, acting with intent to promote or assist the commission of the offense, he solicits, encourages, directs, aids, or attempts to aid the other person to commit the offense. Mere presence alone will not constitute one a party to an offense.

4.

Now, if you believe from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that on or about JUNE 23, 2010 in Hidalgo County, Texas, the Defendant, EZEQUIEL "ANGEL" FALCON, RICARDO SANCHEZ or others, did then and there intentionally or knowingly cause the death of an individual, namely REYES GARCIA, by shooting him with a firearm, for remuneration or the promise of remuneration from VANESSA ARJONA GARCIA, and that the Defendant GRACIELA CASAS ARJONA then and there knew of the intent, if any of the said EZEQUIEL "ANGEL" FALCON, RICARDO SANCHEZ or others to kill REYES GARCIA and the Defendant acted with intent to promote or assist the commission of the offense by EZEQUIEL "ANGEL" FALCON, RICARDO SANCHEZ or others by encouraging, directing, aiding or attempting to aid EZEQUIEL "ANGEL" FALCON, RICARDO SANCHEZ or others to commit the offense of Capital Murder of REYES GARCIA, by saying that VANESSA GARCIA wanted REYES GARCIA dead or that money or guns could be stolen for killing REYES GARCIA, or by telling TONY MENDEZ that VANESSA GARCIA was looking for someone to kill her husband and was willing to pay for it, then you will find the Defendant guilty of the offense of Capital Murder.

Unless you so find, or if you have a reasonable doubt thereof, you will acquit the Defendant of the offense of Capital Murder and next consider whether the Defendant is guilty of the offense of Murder.

5.

If you find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that on or about JUNE 23, 2010, in Hidalgo County, Texas, the Defendant, GRACIELA CASAS ARJONA, did then and there, acting as a party as the term has previously been defined, did intentionally or knowingly cause the death of REYES GARCIA by shooting him with a firearm, but you have a reasonable doubt as to whether the Defendant did so for remuneration or the promise of remuneration, then you will find the Defendant guilty of Murder, but not Capital Murder.

If you should find from the evidence that Defendant is guilty of neither Capital Murder nor Murder, or if you have a reasonable doubt thereof, you will find the Defendant not guilty.

6.

You are instructed that you may consider all relevant facts and circumstances surrounding the killing, if any, and the previous relationship existing between the accused and the deceased, if any, together with all relevant facts and circumstances going to show the condition of the mind of the accused at the time of the shooting in question, if any.

7.

You are instructed unless you believe from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that the alleged confession or statement introduced into evidence was freely and voluntarily made by the Defendant without compulsion or persuasion, or if you have a reasonable doubt thereof, you shall not consider such alleged statement or confession for any purpose nor any evidence obtained as a result thereof.

In a prosecution in which an actor's criminal responsibility is based on the conduct of another, the actor may be convicted on proof of commission of the offense and that he was a party to its commission, and it is no defense; that the person for whose conduct the actor is criminally responsible has been acquitted, has not been prosecuted or convicted, has been convicted of a different offense or of a different

type or class or offense, or is immune from prosecution.

8.

A grand jury indictment is the means whereby a defendant is brought to trial in a felony prosecution. It is not evidence of guilt nor can it be considered by you in passing upon the issue of guilt of the defendant. The burden of proof in all criminal cases rests upon the State throughout the trial, and never shifts to the defendant.

All persons are presumed to be innocent and no person may be convicted of an offense unless each element of the offense is proved beyond a reasonable doubt. The fact that a person has been arrested, confined, or indicted for, or otherwise charged with, the offense gives rise to no inference of guilt at his trial. The law does not require a defendant to prove his innocence or produce any evidence at all. The presumption of innocence alone is sufficient to acquit the defendant, unless the jurors are satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt of the defendant's guilt after careful and impartial consideration of all the evidence in the case.

The prosecution has the burden of proving the Defendant guilty and it must do so by proving each and every element of the offense charged beyond a reasonable doubt and if it fails to do so, you must acquit the Defendant.

It is not required that the prosecution prove guilt beyond all possible doubt; it is required that the prosecution's proof excludes all "reasonable doubt" concerning the Defendant's guilt.

In the event you have a reasonable doubt as to the Defendant's guilt after considering all the evidence before you, and these instructions, you will acquit Defendant and say by your verdict not guilty.

You are the exclusive judges of the facts proved, of the credibility of the witnesses and the weight to be given their testimony. You will be governed by the law you shall receive in these written instructions.

When you retire to the jury room, you should first select one of your members as Presiding Juror. It is the Presiding Juror's duty to preside at your deliberations, vote with you, and when you have unanimously agreed upon a verdict, to certify to your verdict by using the appropriate form attached thereto, and signing the same as Presiding Juror.

In order to return a verdict, each juror must agree thereto, but jurors have a duty to consult with each other and to deliberate with a view of reaching an agreement, if it can be done without violence to individual judgment.

Each juror must decide the case for himself or herself, but only after an impartial consideration of the evidence with his or her fellow jurors.

In the course of deliberations, a juror should not hesitate to re-examine his or her own views and change his or her opinion if convinced it is erroneous. However, no juror should surrender his or her honest conviction as to the weight or effect of the evidence solely because of the opinion of his or her fellow jurors, or for the mere purpose of returning a verdict.

During your deliberations in this case, you must not consider, discuss nor relate any matters not in evidence before you. You should not consider nor mention any personal knowledge or information you may have about any fact or person connected with this case which is not shown by the evidence.

You should not discuss or consider punishment for the offense charged for any purpose. You must concern yourselves solely with the question of guilt or innocence of the Defendant under these written instructions without regard to any possible punishment imposed by law for the offense charged.

During your deliberations, you are instructed that you should not consider the remarks, rulings or actions of the presiding judge during this trial as any indication of the Court's opinion as to the guilt or innocence of the Defendant. The remarks, rulings and actions of the presiding judge were upon matters of the law only and were not upon the facts which you, and you alone, must determine.

While you are deliberating, no one has authority to communicate with you except the officer who has you in charge being the Bailiff. However, after you have retired, you may communicate with the Court as to any questions you may have, but that communication must be in writing through the officer of the Court.

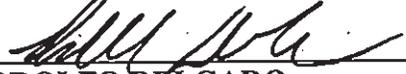
When you have reached a verdict you will notify the bailiff in writing, as to reaching a verdict, but not what the verdict is.

Do not let bias, prejudice, or sympathy play any part in your deliberations.

Your verdict must be unanimous, and after you have reached a unanimous verdict, the Presiding

Juror will certify thereto by signing the appropriate form attached to this charge.

Filed on this the 6 day of Jan, 2017, at 9:30 o'clock A.m.



RODOLFO DELGADO
JUDGE PRESIDING
93RD DISTRICT COURT
HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS