

JAN 30 2024

Case Number CR-3963-19-H (COUNT ONE)

THE STATE OF TEXAS

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§  
§

IN THE 389<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT COURT OF

LAURA HINOJOSA, CLERK  
Hidalgo County  
By Traci Hernandez Deputy #16

VS.

VICTOR ALEJANDRO GODINEZ

HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

**CHARGE OF THE COURT ON PUNISHMENT**

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE JURY:

By your verdict returned in this case, you have found the Defendant, VICTOR ALEJANDRO GODINEZ, guilty of the offense of Capital Murder, which was alleged to have been committed on or about APRIL 6, 2019, in Hidalgo County, Texas. You are instructed that the Defendant shall be punished by imprisonment in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for life without parole, or death. It is necessary that you, the Jury, determine from the evidence in this case, the answers to certain Special Issues, which are as follows:

**SPECIAL ISSUE NUMBER 1:** Whether there is a probability that the Defendant would commit criminal acts of violence that would constitute a continuing threat to society.

You shall answer **Special Issue 1** “Yes” or “No.”

The prosecution has the burden of proving that the answer to Special Issue Number 1 should be “Yes,” and it must do so by proving a “Yes” answer to Special Issue Number 1 beyond a reasonable doubt, and if it fails to do so, you must answer Special Issue Number 1 “No.”

In deliberating on **Special Issue Number 1**, you, the Jury, shall consider all evidence admitted at the guilt or innocence stage and the punishment stage, including evidence of the Defendant’s background or character or the circumstances of the offense that militates for or mitigates against the imposition of the death penalty.

You may not answer **Special Issue Number 1** “Yes” unless you agree unanimously.

You may not answer **Special Issue Number 1 “No”** unless ten (10) or more jurors agree.

Members of the Jury need not agree on what particular evidence supports a negative answer to **Special Issue Number 1**.

If the Jury answers **Special Issue Number 1 “Yes,”** then you shall answer the following **Special Issue Number 2**; otherwise, do not answer **Special Issue Number 2**.

**SPECIAL ISSUE NUMBER 2:** Whether, taking into consideration all of the evidence, including the circumstances of the offense, the Defendant’s character and background, and the personal moral culpability of the Defendant, there is a sufficient mitigating circumstance or circumstances to warrant that a sentence of life imprisonment without parole rather than a death sentence be imposed.

You are instructed that if you, the Jury, answers that a circumstance or circumstances warrant that a sentence of life imprisonment without parole rather than a death sentence be imposed, the Court will sentence the Defendant to imprisonment in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for life without parole.

Under the law applicable in this case, if the Defendant is sentenced to confinement for life without parole in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, the Defendant will be ineligible for release from the department on parole.

You shall answer **Special Issue Number 2 “Yes” or “No.”**

You are instructed that you may not answer **Special Issue Number 2 “No”** unless you agree unanimously.

You may not answer **Special Issue Number 2 “Yes”** unless ten (10) or more jurors agree.

Members of the Jury need not agree on what particular evidence supports an affirmative finding on **Special Issue Number 2**.

In deliberating on **Special Issue Number 2**, you shall consider mitigating evidence to be evidence that a juror might regard as reducing the Defendant's moral blameworthiness.

If the Jury returns an affirmative finding on **Special Issue Number 1**, and a negative finding on **Special Issue Number 2**, the Court shall sentence the Defendant to death. If the Jury returns a negative finding on **Special Issue Number 1** or an affirmative finding on **Special Issue Number 2**, the Court shall sentence the Defendant to confinement in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice for life imprisonment without parole.

You are the exclusive judges of the facts proven, the credibility of the witnesses, and the weight to be given their testimony, but you are bound to receive the law from the Court which is herein given and be governed thereby.

Our law provides that a Defendant may testify in his own behalf if he elects to do so. This, however, is a privilege accorded a Defendant, and in the event he elects not to testify, that fact cannot be taken as a circumstance against him. In this case, the Defendant has elected not to testify, and you are instructed that you cannot and must not refer or allude to that fact throughout your deliberations or take it into consideration for any purpose whatsoever as a circumstance against the Defendant.

The State has introduced evidence of extraneous crimes or bad acts other than the one charged in the indictment in this case. This evidence was admitted only for the purpose of assisting you, if it does, in determining the proper punishment for the offense for which you have found the Defendant guilty. You cannot consider the testimony for any purpose unless you find and believe beyond a reasonable doubt that the Defendant committed such other acts, if any, were committed.

In arriving at the answers to the above issues, it will not be proper for you to fix the same by lot, chance, or any other method other than a full, fair, and free exercise of the opinion of the individual jurors.

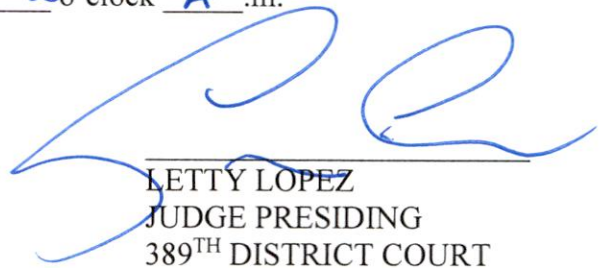
In deliberating on this case, you shall consider the charge as a whole and you must not refer to or discuss any matters not in evidence before you.

You must not consider or mention any personal knowledge or information you may have about any facts or person connected with this case which is not shown by the evidence. You shall not consult law books or anything not in evidence in this case.

Any further communication must be in writing signed by your Presiding Juror through the Bailiff to the Court. Do not attempt to talk to the Bailiff, the attorneys or the Court regarding any questions you may have concerning the trial of the case.

After argument of Counsel, you will retire to the jury room to deliberate. When you have reached a verdict, you may use the attached forms to indicate your answers to the **Special Issues**, and your Presiding Juror should sign the appropriate form certifying to your verdict.

Filed on January 30, 2024, at 10:35 o'clock A.m.



LETTY LOPEZ  
JUDGE PRESIDING  
389<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT COURT  
HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

JAN 31 2024

Case Number CR-3963-19-H (COUNT ONE)

LAURA HINOJOSA, CLERK  
District Courts, Hidalgo County  
By [Signature] Deputy#16

THE STATE OF TEXAS                   §           IN THE 389<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL  
VS.   §           DISTRICT COURT OF  
VICTOR ALEJANDRO GODINEZ         §           HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

Now, bearing in mind the foregoing instructions, you will answer the following Special Issues:

**SPECIAL ISSUE NUMBER 1**

Do you find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that there is a probability that the Defendant, VICTOR ALEJANDRO GODINEZ, would commit criminal acts of violence that would constitute a continuing threat to society?

In your verdict, you will answer "Yes" or "No."

Answer: We, the Jury, unanimously find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that the answer to Special Issue Number 1 is "Yes."

[Signature]  
Presiding Juror

**OR**

Answer: We, the jury, because at least ten (10) jurors agree, find that the answer to Special Issue Number 1 is "No."

\_\_\_\_\_  
Presiding Juror

If your answer to Special Issue Number 1 is "Yes," then you will answer Special Issue Number 2; otherwise, you will not answer Special Issue Number 2.

**SPECIAL ISSUE NUMBER 2**

Taking into consideration all of the evidence, including the circumstances of the offense, the Defendant's character and background, and the personal moral culpability of the Defendant, do you find that there is a sufficient mitigating circumstance or circumstances to warrant that a sentence of life imprisonment without parole rather than a death sentence be imposed?

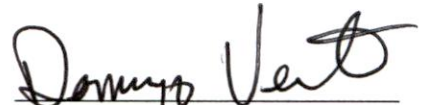
In your verdict, you will answer "Yes" or "No."

Answer: We, the Jury, because at least ten (10) jurors agree, find that the answer to Special Issue Number 2 is "Yes."

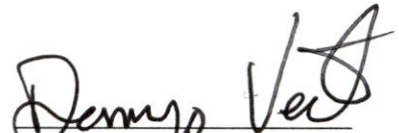
\_\_\_\_\_  
Presiding Juror

**OR**

Answer: We, the Jury, unanimously find that the answer to Special Issue Number 2 is "No."

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Presiding Juror

We, the Jury, return in open Court the above answers to Special Issues submitted to us and the same is our verdict in this case.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Presiding Juror

1/31/2024  
Received by Judge Betty Lopez  
@ 12:36 AM.

