

First-degree murder trial begins in Greenacres teen's brutal death



Lannis Waters/Palm Beach Post

The victim's girlfriend, Adriana Rodriguez, 18, faces charges in court Tuesday April 5, 2011.



Maciel Martin Videla



Lannis Waters/Palm Beach Post

Alfredo Arturo Gomez-Sotelo in court Tuesday, April 5, 2011, to face first-degree murder charges in the brutal slaying of Maciel Martin Videla. Videla's attackers stabbed him 15 times and slashed his throat.

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Updated: 2:35 p.m. Tuesday, April 12, 2011

Posted: 7:07 a.m. Tuesday, April 5, 2011

WEST PALM BEACH — An undercover narcotics agent testified Tuesday that 29-year-old Alfredo Sotelo-Gomez told him not to deal with Maciel Martin Videla because he was a possible snitch.

"Don't worry," the agent said Sotelo-Gomez advised him in December 2008. "I'll take care of him tomorrow."

Videla, 17, was found dead shortly after in a western Palm Beach County canal. The Greenacres teen was stabbed 15 times in the head, neck and back and his throat slit. Sotelo-Gomez is charged with first-degree murder and kidnapping and could face the death penalty if convicted.

Assistant State Attorney Jacqueline Charbonneau told jurors Sotelo-Gomez and group of other men planned to make Videla deaf and blind so he could not snitch again. They lured him into their car and drove west where Sotelo-Gomez pinned Videla's arms behind his back and another man slit his throat.

Videla's girlfriend, 20-year-old Adriana Rodriguez, also is on trial this week with Sotelo-Gomez. She is not accused of direct involvement in the attack on Videla, but the state contends she lured him to the men who

would ultimately kill him. Rodriguez was complicit in the plan, Charbonneau told jurors, because she owed Videla money and didn't want to pay him.

The murder tracks back deep into the circles of cocaine dealers and ne'er do wells.

A dealer facing up to 70 years in prison who testified Tuesday buttressed the undercover agent's account of Sotelo-Gomez's involvement in exchange for leniency in his sentence. Juan Urdialez, termed by the defense as the prosecution's "star witness," was allegedly present at the murder scene, yet has never been charged.

Urdialez identified another man he knew personally who also was allegedly present at the murder scene - Julio Gomez. Yet prosecutors later dropped Gomez's first-degree murder charge, acknowledging they had arrested the wrong Julio Gomez.

Urdialez's testimony is due to begin this morning. The trial is scheduled to continue into next week.

Videla's family has since sued the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office over the murder of their son. The undercover agent testified Tuesday he told no one of Sotelo-Gomez's alleged comment about "taking care" of Videla.

"I never had the idea that was something he would do," the agent said .

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