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~J. GONZALEZ

¿QUÉ VOY HACER,  
MADRE DIOS?  
NO SIENTE ALIVIO  
MI ENFERMITO.  
DE AQUÍ NO ME MUEVO,  
EN ESTE RINCÓN DE  
MI TIERRA ME QUEDO,  
AQUÍ QUE ME ABANDONE  
MI DESTINO.  
AQUÍ ME QUEDO  
HASTA QUE MI HIJO  
SE HAGA POLVO.

AQUÍ SENTADA,  
VIENDO MIS GRUESOS  
CALLOS  
EN LAS PLANTAS  
DE LOS PIES,  
AQUÍ VIENDO MIS  
SANDALIAS DE HULE  
HINCHADAS CON  
SU SANGRE.




\* FROM “EN EL NOMBRE DE TODAS LAS MADRES QUE HAN PERDIDO SUS HIJOS EN LA GUERRA” BY GLORIA ANZALDÚA \*

AQUÍ ESPANTANDO  
LAS MOSCAS,  
VIENDO LAS SOMBRAS  
CUAJADAS DE  
SANGRE.  
AQUÍ ME QUEDO  
HASTA QUE ME  
PUDRA.  
TODA LA NOCHE  
LO ARRULLO  
EN MIS BRAZOS.

SACO LA CHICHE,  
SE LA ARRIMO  
A SU BOQUITA  
QUEBRADA.  
EL NUNCA HA DE  
BEBER.  
EL DÍA AMANECE,  
VIVO A VER  
OTRO AMANECER,  
QUE EXTRAÑO.




Editor’s note: José Alaniz’s chosen stanzas from Gloria Anzaldúa’s classic book “Borderlands” (1987), read in translation: “What will I do, Mother god?! My little sick one feels no relief./ I will not move from here/ I will stay in this corner of my land,/ let fate abandon me here./ I will stay here until my son has turned to dust./ Sitting here,/ watching the thick calluses/ on the soles of my feet,/ here watching my rubber sandals/ crusted with his blood./ Here scaring flies away,/ watching the shadows curdled with blood./ I will stay here until I rot./ All night long I hold him in my arms, singing lullabies to him./ I take out my breast,/ put it up to his broken little mouth./ He never needs to drink./ The day breaks,/ I live to see another dawn,/ how strange.”

## Illustration closes series by paying tribute to COVID-19 victims

**BY FRANCISCO GUAJARDO**  
SPECIAL TO THE MONITOR

José Alaniz created the final Bearing Witness column, featuring portraits of four people we’ve lost during the pandemic of 2020-21.

A close friend of the Museum of South Texas History, José looked to capture the horror and complexity of this historical moment. He sought poetic guidance and landed on Edinburg native and globally renowned intellectual Gloria Anzaldúa (1942-2004).

José wrote, “This devastating passage by Anzaldúa,

I felt, works best for the context of the pandemic. It has indeed seemed like a war.”

“She wrote it in Spanish,” he said.

But it’s clear COVID-19 doesn’t care about language, or race, or class or nationality. We bear witness, somos testigos, to that reality.

We have felt the loss acutely. No one has been spared. Todas las madres han perdido hijos in this cruel moment.

The pandemic has forced us to find new ways of being. How can we be different, and better, as we emerge

more resilient, more empathetic, more aware?

Families, neighborhoods, communities, organizations — we’ve all taken a hit.

When Sandra Luna, a longtime employee of the museum died from COVID-19 in July 2020, the museum initiated Bearing Witness, to build an archival collection and to recognize loved ones lost.

We wanted to honor Sandra, who personified self-

lessness and joy.

The loss of life has mounted: a few of the losses from the museum family.

We lost Josefina “Josie” Ellard, who — with her husband Charles — had been a friend of the museum since the mid-1980s, both a fixture at our Sunday Speaker Series programs.

We lost Glynn Morgan, who was deeply moved by a philanthropic spirit, and understood the

need to give.

We lost Jack Scoggins, who with his wife Tina simply gave, and gave, until they couldn’t give anymore. As long-time Heritage Associate members, they welcomed the museum community to Los Novillos, their historic South Texas ranch.

We’ve lost much more: Alberto, Heidi, Pedro and Maria Oralia appear here as a metaphor to the collective loss.

The four of them, like Sandra and Josie and Glynn and Jack, bear witness to the good spirit of the Valley. Together, we

bear witness to their important legacy.

Anzaldúa quipped, may we “live to see another dawn.” Que en paz descansan todos.

*Francisco Guajardo is the chief executive officer for the Museum of South Texas History at 200 N. Clossner Blvd. in Edinburg. His story and José Alaniz’s comic strip conclude the ongoing series entitled Bearing Witness, in which the museum documented 24 of the Rio Grande Valley lives lost to COVID-19. For more information about the museum, visit MOSTHistory.org.*

### BEARING WITNESS

## Man arraigned in 2002 murders of 4 women in Donna



Jesus Carlos Rodriguez, 44, of Weslaco is arraigned by Judge Juan “JJ” Pena at the Hidalgo County Sheriff’s Office Detention Center in Edinburg on Sunday.

### Authorities: Suspect ordered deaths because victims testified against him

**BY EMILY D’GYVES**  
STAFF WRITER

EDINBURG — A man who allegedly ordered the deaths of four women for testifying against him in court nearly two decades ago was arraigned here Sunday afternoon.

Jesus Carlos Rodriguez, 43, was charged with two capital felonies — capital murder of multiple persons and engaging in organized criminal activities — and two counts of attempted murder by Justice of the Peace Juan Jose Pena Jr.

The charges stem from a case nearly 20 years old.

On Sept. 5, 2002, the Hidalgo County Sheriff’s Of-

fice responded to a capital murder call south of Business Highway 83 on Valley View Road in Donna.

When deputies arrived at the scene, four women were found dead inside a car — all suffered multiple gunshot wounds, according to a sheriff’s news release issued Sunday.

As a result of the investigation, sheriff’s investigators identified the shooters to be members of a street gang, which led to several arrests.

Though he was in prison at the time, investigators also learned Rodriguez allegedly ordered the deaths of the four women as retaliation for testifying

against him in court.

On Friday, Rodriguez was released from Jefferson County State Prison and transported to the Hidalgo County Detention Center.

With both capital murder charges at \$1 million each and \$500,000 for each count of attempted murder, Rodriguez’s total bond is \$3 million.

Anyone with information regarding the case is urged to contact the sheriff’s office at (956) 383-8114. Those wishing to remain anonymous can contact the county’s Crime Stoppers Hotline at (956) 668-TIPS (8477) or submit an anonymous tip through the smartphone app P3 TIPS.

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