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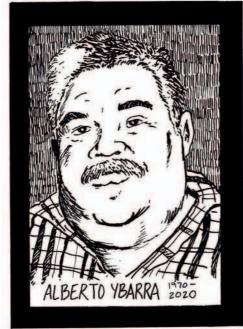
## GONZÁLEZ SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM

**KEEPING THE RGV INFORMED IN TIME OF NEED!** 

"We at J. Gonzalez Injury Attorneys recognize, more than ever, the value of local journalism." Our community depends on steady and reliable voices to report the facts. Please join J. Gonzalez Injury Attorneys in supporting local journalism by reading The Monitor in print and at www.themonitor.com for round-the-clock Coronavirus updates. Stay safe!"

~J. GONZALEZ

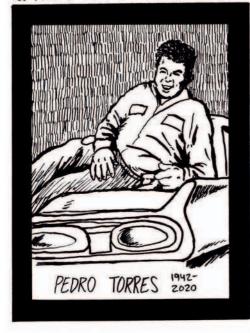
¿QUÉ VOY HACER, MADRE DIOS ? NO SIENTE ALIVIO MI ENFERMITO. DE AQUÍ NO ME MUEVO, EN ESTE RINCON DE MI TIERRA ME QUEDO, AQUÍ QUE ME ABANDONE MI DESTINO. AQUI ME QUEDO HASTA QUE MI HIJO SE HAGA POLVO.



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 ANZALDUÁ



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 DIÁ 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

**BEARING WITNESS** 

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

"She wrote it in Spanish,"

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

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 empa-

thetic, more aware? Families, neighborhoods, communities, organizations — we've all taken a hit.

When Sandra Luna, a longtime employee of the museum died from COV-ID-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 selflessness 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

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 dawn." Que en paz descansen todos.

Francisco Guajardo is the chief executive officer for the Museum of South Texas History at 200 N. Closner 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.

against him in court.

Center.

On Friday, Rodriguez

was released from Jefferson County State Prison

and transported to the Hi-

dalgo County Detention

With both capital mur-

der charges at \$1 million

each and \$500,000 for

each count of attempted

murder, Rodriguez's total

Anyone with informa-

tion regarding the case

is urged to contact the

bond is \$3 million.

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



Delcia Lopez | dlopez@themonitor.com

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.

dalgo County Sheriff's Of-

guez allegedly ordered the On Sept. 5, 2002, the Hideaths of the four women

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.

WAs 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 Rodri-

as retaliation for testifying

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.

> edgyves@ themonitor.com

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.