



Department of Justice

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District of Massachusetts

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LAWRENCE MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE FOR DOUBLE FATAL ARSON

Boston, MA... A federal judge today sentenced a Lawrence man to a term of life in prison, based on his conviction for a 2003 arson that resulted in the deaths of a young mother and her two-month-old baby daughter.

United States Attorney Michael J. Sullivan, Glenn N. Anderson, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives - Boston Field Division, Peter Takvorian, Chief of the Lawrence Fire Department, John J. Romero, Chief of the Lawrence Police Department, Stephen Coan, State Fire Marshal and Jonathan W. Blodgett, Essex County District Attorney, announced today that **HARRY GUZMAN**, age 27, formerly of 197 West Street, Lawrence, Massachusetts, was sentenced by United States District Judge Joseph L. Tauro to life in prison for the April 3, 2003 arson.

Evidence introduced during the course of the January 2008 trial before Judge Tauro showed that the fire caused extensive damage to an apartment building located at 48-50 Manchester Street in Lawrence and killed 26-year-old Matilda Medina and her two-month-old baby, Angelic Duran. Evidence showed that **GUZMAN**, either himself or aiding and abetting another person, set the fire on the rear porch of the building at 3:00 in the morning, when the residents of the building were sleeping. Most of the residents were able to evacuate the building, including Ms. Medina's older daughter, who was helped from the building by a boarder. However, Ms. Medina and Angelic succumbed to carbon monoxide poisoning sustained through smoke inhalation in their third-story bedroom.

The case was prosecuted under the federal Anti-Arson Act, which protects commercial property, including multi-family rental dwellings. In this case, the apartments within 48-50 Manchester Street were being rented to tenants at the time of the fire.

The April 3rd fatal fire was the third in a series of nine arson fires that occurred within a two-block radius of **GUZMAN**'s West Street residence between March 31 and June 9, 2003. **GUZMAN** has also been charged in federal court with setting the June 9th fire.

GUZMAN was also ordered to make restitution to the owner and tenants of 48-50 Manchester Street.

The case was investigated by the Lawrence Arson Task Force, comprising investigators from the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Lawrence Fire Department, Lawrence Police Department, State Fire Marshal's Office and the Massachusetts State Police Detective Bureau assigned to the Essex County District Attorney's Office.

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