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Two Trenton Men Indicted for the Murder of Julio Cesar Cruz Cruz

TRENTON – A Mercer County grand jury returned a two-count indictment on Friday charging two Trenton men with the February 2014 death of a Guatemalan immigrant, Mercer County Prosecutor Joseph L. Bocchini Jr. reported.

Michael Holman, age 19, of Grand Street, and Dante Martin, age 19, of Second Street, were each indicted on counts of first-degree felony murder for causing the death of Julio Cesar Cruz Cruz during the commission of a robbery and first-degree robbery. Felony murder carries a penalty of 30 years to life in state prison.

Nineteen-year-old Cruz was returning to his Rusling Avenue home at approximately 6:45 p.m. on Saturday, February 15, 2014, when he was approached by two assailants in an apparent robbery attempt. The victim was able to bang on the front door and call for help. Another resident of the home immediately looked out a window and saw the two assailants throw the victim to the ground, causing what would become a fatal head injury. When other people inside of the home came out to assist Cruz, the assailants fled in different directions. The victim was transported to St. Francis Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead.

Holman and Martin were taken into custody and charged on February 27, 2014, following a tenacious investigation by the Mercer County Homicide Task Force. Through witness interviews, neighborhood canvasses, and viewing hours and hours of surveillance video downloaded from local businesses and other sources, officers were able to identify and locate the suspects. Holman was arrested in close proximity to where the homicide occurred. Martin was charged at the prosecutor's office.

Both Holman and Martin remain in the Mercer County Correction Center in lieu of \$1 million bail.

Senior Assistant Prosecutor James Scott presented the case to the grand jury.

Despite having been indicted, every defendant is presumed innocent until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

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