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May 2022

A Life In Service-Rudy Hinguanzo

Feature article

The Mellissa Lucio Story

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REDISTRICTING

Communities of color deserve better in Tarrant County. Accounting for 95% of our state's population growth over the last decade, Black, Latinx, and Asian communities are further deprived of political power because of radical redistricting with 0 new districts! Many of the same lawmakers from 2010 are the ones in charge of 2020 redistricting, using the same discriminatory maps regardless of federal rulings they illegally targeted voters of color. After leading Tarrant Together to flip the county blue for Biden, I look forward to continuing our fight serving as Chair of the Tarrant County Democratic Party. We are fighting for an equal voice for targeted communities trying to exercise their most fundamental right, having a say in what happens in their everyday lives.

Pol. adv. approved by Tarrant County Democratic Party

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FORT WORTH CELEBRATES DOS 2 ICONIC AMERICAN HEROES

Cesar Chavez—Dolores Huerta

Cesar Chavez dedicated his life in service to the people that feed us and our families every day. The often-faceless people that harvest the vegetables and fruits that sustain our lives (Farm workers) Through his life he worked to ensure that they had safe working conditions, living conditions and improved wages that would allow them to take of their families. And in turn ours as well. Cesar left us on April 23, 1993, RIP (Rest in Power) but his spirt lives on every day in all people that fight for social justice. A statue with his likeness can be seen in the Biden White House behind his desk in the oval office. Which I believe is a reminder that a service to others in the highest calling for all of us.

Dolores Huerta co-founder of the United Farm Workers Union is very much alive and on April 10th will be ninety-two. While reaching that age is an achievement itself but reaching that age and still advocating for social justice (Much Respect) Her commitment for justice was born from many personal experiences of discrimination and even violence against her and her family. Rather than give up and stay quiet it made her more determined to fight against discrimination and injustice. Which to this day that commitment has not changed?

And what is equally impressive is that she has done all this while rising 11 children. Which reminds me of a saying that the late great Ann Richards would say (Paraphrasing) “We can do everything a man can do, in high-heels and dancing backwards” “Long Live Dolores Huerta” We are all better for you living among us. Si Se Puede!

Caza Azual Coffee was the host site for the April 6, 2022, birthday celebration to honor our two heroes. The event sponsors were Cesar Chavez committee de Tarrant County, LULAC Council 4568, MTTP Amigos N Progress and Hola Texas media sponsor. Among the event highlights was the recognition of Jacinto Ramos for his long service as a FWISD board member, Cesar and Dolores Spirt award to members of the JOLT voter registration program and State Representative Ramon Romero presented LULAC Council 4568 and Cesar Chavez committee with a resolution recognizing their work that led to the signage honoring both Cesar and Dolores in Fort Worth. Also recognized was city councilman Carlos Flores for his much-appreciated role in making the same happen. It was a great day to be among friends and family that included several elected officials and community leaders. A special

announcement was made that Fort Worth has been chosen as a site to showcase the newest Cesar Chavez documentary in September of this year. In addition, a panel from the Chavez Foundation will be in attendance to discuss this new historical documentary about Cesar’s work. This was convened to this writer by Rose Herrera former FWISD trustee and friend to Dolores Huerta. Watch this space for more information. Last, I want to thank all the organizations that made this possible and those that attended. As well as host site Caza Azual Coffee and our food provider Gustos’ Burgers that were muy bueno. Mil gracias to all!

By A. Govea



THE MELISSA LUCIO STORY

Part One: The Accident

*In 2020 Hulu released the true-crime documentary *The State of Texas vs. Melissa*. In the documentary, the creators follow Melissa Lucio, who was sentenced to death in 2008 after being accused of murdering her 2-year-old daughter Mariah Lucio. But Lucio claims she was caught in the middle of a corrupt system and is innocent of murder. Now it is up to her and her family to fight the State of Texas to save her life. Of course, documentaries are biased and are presented with a motive, but this documentary may lead to enough unanswered questions to make anyone question if Mariah Lucio truly deserves the death penalty.*

BY NISIE GOVEA JIMENEZ

TAKE ACTION TODAY

<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/melissa-lucio-innocent-woman-on-death-row-in-texas-2>

<https://freemelissalucio.org>

In the early 2000s, Melissa Lucio was a single mother of 14 children. Unfortunately, it was increasingly challenging to afford her large family, and she found herself in persistent poverty. It was not uncommon for all the children to share one room, and CPS was often involved because the family was homeless or did not have enough resources for the necessities. Authorities never believed Melissa Lucio was a danger to her children. But they did report domestic violence in the house between Melissa and her boyfriend. There was also reported drug use. CPS eventually removed some of her older children from home due to neglect. However, despite Lucio's inability to adequately provide for her oversized family, thousands of pages of Child Protective Service documents show zero evidence of physical abuse towards any of her children. Tragically, being stuck in the vicious cycle of life in poverty may have led this family to the nightmare they now face.

It was 2007 when the Lucio family was forced to move again. During this move, little two-year-old Mariah Lucio would lose her young life. Baby Lucio's older brother claims he witnessed his sister fall from the top of the rickety rotting staircase connected to their apartment. He didn't notice any apparent injuries from the accident, so they continued their day. Melissa Lucio was aware of the fall but did not see immediate cause for action. It wasn't until her daughter's injuries became more apparent two days later, but she waited too late and had to call an ambulance for help. Two-year-old Mariah Lucio was pronounced dead at the hospital a short time later. Doctors were amazed at the extent of injuries on the little victim's body and immediately accused Melissa Lucio of severely abusing Mariah. Soon after, police took Lucio into custody and began interrogating her. Authorities questioned Melissa until the early hours until she finally admitted to

killing her daughter. But, according to Melissa and her children, she was not a murderer and gave a false confession while under extreme pressure from the police.

Peter Gilman was appointed to be Lucio's lead council, and the State was prepared to offer a plea deal. She was given the option to serve 30 years for pleading guilty to murder, but she did not accept. Melissa didn't believe she should plead guilty to murder when it was just a horrific and tragic accident. However, she was eventually found guilty at trial and was sentenced to death row. Her death is set for April 27 of this year. While being interviewed for our *Ca Pasa Today* podcast, Melissa Lucio's son said that since the State of Texas announced the date for execution, he is worried every day for his mother's life as he fears she may be "Murdered by the state of Texas."

THE MELISSA LUCIO STORY

Part Two: How Did We Get Here?

Now that Melissa Lucio is set to be put to death by lethal injection on April 27th, 2022, her third oldest son John Lucio is working tirelessly to help free his mom.

BY NISIE GOVEA JIMENEZ

TAKE ACTION TODAY

<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/melissa-lucio-innocent-woman-on-death-row-in-texas-2>
<https://freemelissalucio.org>

During an interview with Alberto Govea on the Que Pasa Today podcast, John Lucio stressed to listeners how his mom was taken advantage of by the system and is now suffering because of corruption. Was Melissa Lucio an easy target for men like a court-appointed attorney Peter Gilman who just wanted to “Play Politics?” Maybe she was, and how someone like Mellissa Lucio could fall victim to this sort of abuse by the legal system. Sadly, it did not happen overnight.

Melissa Lucio began her long and tragic journey of abuse at the age of 6. Her sisters were unaware of the abuse, but her mom admits that Melissa told her her stepdad sexually abused her. Her mom did not believe young Melissa because she was a child. Melissa Lucio was sexually abused until she was 16; she finally escaped her abusers by becoming a child bride. However, the abuse was only continued at the hands of her new husband. Eventually, the pain she suffered would lead her to severe drug addiction, and by then, she was already the mother of 14 children.

Her life became a never-ending struggle. Even after leaving her ex-husband, her new boyfriend was just as abusive to her. She would continue to do cocaine and drugs to cope with the stresses of being a battered mom of 14 kids. Melissa’s brother acknowledged she had a drug problem in the documentary but explained how she would hide in the bathroom for hours, so her children did not see her high on drugs. The drug addiction only complicated her bad situation even more. While locked in a bathroom, the children were neglected and often went without supervision. Child protective services had no choice but to step in. After Melissa’s children were seen sleeping in the park, authorities discovered she was homeless. She was often evicted from her home, so CPS removed some of her children from custody. During the CPS investigation, she was accused of neglecting the children’s needs by not providing them with a place to live and having a drug addiction. Authorities never accused her of physically harming the children. However, after two years, she was still able to regain custody of all her children.

Despite regaining custody of her children two years later, Melissa Lucio’s financial situation had not improved very much. She was still moving from place to place, and the children usually shared one bedroom. Moreover, according to her daughter Selina Lucio, her mom was not the same after everyone was back together under the same roof. Selina Lucio has been very vocal from her TIK TOK account @5thof14 and claims that she witnessed her mother abusing her youngest sister Mariah on more than one occasion. She also said she believes some of the bruising found on Mariah resembles the rings her mom would wear. Selina also said the abuse was never towards any of her other siblings. Nevertheless, John Lucio, the third oldest son, says his mom did not abuse Mariah. It is possible that Melissa did abuse Mariah, but did she directly cause her death or was each unfortunate event the connecting piece to a puzzle that would reveal the most grizzly of images when finished?

THE MELISSA LUCIO STORY

Part Three: The Trial

On July 22, 2008, Melissa was found guilty of Capital Murder for the death of her two-year-old daughter Mariah Lucio and was sentenced to death. This verdict and sentencing came after a trial that many now believe was utterly unfair and facilitated by a corrupt court.

STORY BY NISIE GOVEA JIMENEZ

TAKE ACTION TODAY

<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/melissa-lucio-innocent-woman-on-death-row-in-texas-2>

<https://freemelissalucio.org>

Melissa had no money, so she was provided with court-appointed counsel. Both Mr. Peter Gilman and his wife, Mrs. Gilman, were lead attorneys in charge of her case, and from the beginning, the family was uneasy with the arrangement, but they had no other options. Like any murder trial, it is up to Lucio and her legal team to develop a defense, and hers was that Mariah fell from the top of the old staircase. The defense was palpable since her son John Lucio claims to have witnessed his sister fall and described being surprised she was not more visibly injured. Nevertheless, Cameron County District Attorney Armando believed Mariah's death was no accident. Melissa was offered a plea deal and would serve only 30 years if she pleaded guilty to the murder of her daughter. However, she refused to plead guilty to a crime she claims she did not commit.

District Attorney Armando used Melissa's recorded statements from her interrogation and presented them as "confessions" to the jury during the trial. At the same time, the interrogating officer, Texas Ranger Victor Escalon, may have provoked some of her statements after hours of harsh interrogation without Melissa receiving any food or water. The most damning statement made during the interrogation was when Melissa was finally beaten down by officials enough to say, "I guess I did it. I am responsible." However, after hours of being screamed at and told by Escalon, "Right now, it looks like you are a cold-blooded killer. Are you a cold-blooded killer, or were you a frustrated mother who just took it out on her?"

He continued by telling her, "we already know what happened." Officials were also allowed to testify that Melissa seemed emotionless about her daughter's death at the time of the incident, while the defense was not allowed to explain how Melissa's past abuse would explain her reaction to such a shocking incident. Melissa's chances of being proven innocent without the jury knowing the entire story were nonexistent.



Melissa was not going to win her case, and after she was found guilty, she would endure her painful sentence to death row, where she still sits today almost 15 years later. She has not changed her story throughout this time and still clings to her innocence.

Since 2008 when Melissa was officially charged for the murder of her daughter, she and her legal team have gone after her original legal team Mr. and Mrs. Gilman, and the preceding judge at the time of the 2008 trial, Judge Gabriela Garcia.

Melissa's attorneys claim that Mr. Gilman's advancement to Assistant District attorney after her conviction is a significant conflict of interest because he was now working for the same judge preceding over her execution. Gilman must be able to cooperate with her new council in future proceedings but has been unable to do so. Further, Lucio's current legal team stated, "Judge Garcia's and D.A. Saenz's roles, in this case, have the effect of obstructing Melissa Lucio's access to evidence." To make matters worse, the district attorney at the time of Lucio's conviction in 2008 is currently serving a 13-year prison for extortion in a different case. However, time continues to run out for Melissa and her family.

Now, Melissa is just days away from her execution, and her lawyers have made a final request to the Texas court of appeals for a stay of execution. Cameron County District Attorney Luis Saenz has stated that he initially stood with the decision to put Lucio to death but now claims to support her pleas for clemency. While Melissa Lucio's attorneys are skeptical of the district attorney's support, they believe he could withdraw his request for an execution date. However, for now, Melissa Lucio, mom of 14, is standing to be the first Latina in Texas history to be put to death.

SOURCES: CASE: 16-70027 DOCUMENT: 00515739449 CASE DOCUMENT FILED BY YLE W. CAYCE CLERK MELISSA LUCIO: 9 FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THIS INNOCENT WOMAN FACING EXECUTION BY INNOCENCE STAFF DE LA GRAZA DIST. CLERK

A LIFE IN SERVICE

What do Boxing and Easter Baskets have in common? The obvious answer would be nada-nothing. Pero, if you lived in West Dallas/Oak Cliff, the answer for many families would be an easy one. And that is Mr. Rudy Hinguanzo, which not only started a boxing program and helped his now-deceased wife Dolores start and coordinate the annual Easter Basket giveaway 40 years ago. They initially held it at the Anita Martinez Recreation Center. And then, after a few years, they moved and expanded the program to the West Dallas Battan Center.

BY A. GOVEA

Baskets Donated by the Community

In this “Look at me” society we live in now; we post every minor accomplishment or great meal and wait for praise. People like Rudy and his deceased wife never sought the spotlight or recognition. Instead, for them, it was like my uncle once told me when I was a kid, “Do you know what the reward is for a job well done? (Me,) No Sá (Don’t Know) his response “More Work” Back then, I did not fully understand that. Pero, I do now, as I’m sure Rudy does. The work is the reward, mainly when it serves others. And if you live long enough, sometimes your excellent work bears fruit in the lives of others as well.

Rudy Hinguanzo

A perfect example of that is Mr. Juan Cervantes, a now-retired from Law Enforcement with the Dallas District Attorney’s office and a former member of Rudy’s boxing club. Juan shared he came here at age 8 with his family from Mexico, seeking a better life. Pero that better life for an 8-year-old can be very confusing when you are uprooted from friends and family. Especially at an age where you just understand relationship dynamics. Imagine coming to a strange land where people speak a ‘Well’ language foreign to you. Juan struggled to find direction in his young life, especially as he reached his teen years.

Enter Rudy Hinguanzo, a Golden Gloves Boxing coach, a father figure to many, and a mentor to his peers. According to Juan, Rudy would address him by his Sir name Cervantes, something he did not really appreciate back then. Back then Mr Cervantes was known as El Juanio from West Side, Cervantes chela/no, not for Juanio. Pero, as time went by, he understood that addressing someone by their sir’s name is a sign of respect, just like in the military or any professional setting. Rudy had not only taught him the sweet art of boxing but perhaps about life itself. Ruben Sombrerero was also a former member of Rudy’s boxing team. He acknowledges the discipline he learned under the direction of Rudy served him well when he enlisted in the Armed Services. Mr. Sombrerero, a veteran of the Gulf War, has served as an assistant to Rudy in the boxing club; he and his wife and children also help/volunteer with the Easter Program.

Ahora/Back to Easter Baskets over forty years ago, Rudy attended a community Easter Egg hunt before his Easter program. He noticed that most of the kids were using random paper sacks to gather their Easter bounty. A light went off. Rudy thought, we can do better; we must do better. He thought their first efforts netted 7 baskets; well, it is a start, but he knew they must do better. And better they did, first with the help of family and friends, then other people in the community joined in. Pretty soon, Mr. Cervantes, now

a full-fledged Dallas Police Officer, got involved and convinced some of his fellow officers to do the same. This Saturday, April 16th, this program will give over 250 baskets. The baskets are not one size fits all. They are specific to age groups. Newborn baskets get pampers, bottles, wipes, and baby clothes. And according to Rudy’s daughter, her dad insists all baskets have coloring books and crayons among the standard fare basket goodies.

In May, Mr. Rudy Hinguanzo will be turning 82 and is beginning to experience failing health, so this may be his last year to attend. The Battan Center is honoring Rudy for his dedication to area children through his Easter Program. We at Hola Texas E El Weekender join them in saluting Mr. Hinguanzo for a life well-lived. I am reminded of a lyric in the old Tejano song titled ‘Don Luis El Tejano’ En un Surco largo pasaron Los anos (In a long row, the years passed). Pero, it wasn’t’ for nothing; just ask his family and the families he served. His daughter (Teresa Ortiz) has assured me that the program will continue. May God Bless Mr. Hinguanzo and his family.

(The coordination of any program requires money and volunteers to succeed, especially one that has survived and prospered through four decades. Special Thank You To The Following Family and Friends; Teresa Ortiz, Denise 1 and Denise 2, Karina and Margie, Robert and Albert along with their families, The Entire Hinguanzo family)



We are proud of you and feel blessed to have been a part of the Best Easter Program in Dallas!

"2ND CHANCE BOXING GYM"-MR. ALBERT HINGUANZO-MR. & MS. ROBERT HINGUANZO-MR. MS. CASTELLANO-DON JEFE SOMBRERERO-RUBEN AGUILLON AND FAMILY-THE GOD SON, ERICA,DALLAS & KASH ORTIZ-APRIL & NAILAH =VELASQUEZ FAMILY ASHLEY, JOEY, TIMO & ALAYA-HOLATEXAS.US-ROCIO RODRIGUEZ



FELICITACIONES!

Congratulations to the young leaders who were honored for their commitment to the community at the Cesar Chávez and Dolores Huerta birthday celebration on April 6th, at Casa Azul.



We appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with LULAC Council 4568, Amigos N Progress, The Cesar Chávez Committee, and JOLT Honorees to host this important event. We look forward to more opportunities to work together on projects to support the community.



Our Mission

Increase voter participation of historically under-represented citizens and ensure that candidates and elected officials advocate and promote justice, equity and equal opportunity for all.

Join us!

- ✓ Register high school students
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Mother & Day without Mothers

The Endemic Violence Against Women



Max Soto///

Traducido del original de Grey Harris

Mother's Day is a celebration which has been celebrated since ancient Greek times, and it has changed much over the years. Initially, it was a three-day festival making offerings that honored the mother of the gods, and now it is a day in which mothers are honored for their work and dedication, and love for them. In many parts of Latin America and

the world, it is one of the most anticipated and celebrated days. Nonetheless, this year it will be a day of happiness and sorrow equally. Since the pandemic began, the violence against women increased immensely. This was mainly due to toxic relationships and the mandated quarantine of 2020. What is more, femicide, killings, and other forms of violence against women continued to escalate in much of Latin America, but it is not a new problem of the pandemic. In 2018, the organization ONU Mujeres published the 25 countries with the highest rates of violence against women, and Latin American and the Caribbean included 14 of the 25. They also published the 10 most dangerous countries for women to live in and 7 Latin American countries and Caribbean islands out of 10 were named. The Observatorio de Igualdad de Género de América Latina y el Caribe reported that 4,264 women

died from femicide during 2020, and the 2021 rates increased in Mexico and other countries.

This is a horrible and persistent problem, but there are organizations that are fighting this problem and there are activities we can do to help as well. Some organizations that can help the interruption of violence are ONU Mujeres, Women Watch, The International Isis Foundation, the Global Organization of Health, among others. In addition, it is possible to inform others of the problem, organize demonstrations, or avoid supporting companies that donate to politicians and groups that do not help the rights of women.

Like most social problems, there is not one nor a simple solution, but these problems can be addressed with action, dedication and more conscious. Everyone does not need to abandon their lives to help stop femicide, but you can help those who try to improve the lives of others. At least, this Mother's Day you can stop for a moment and think of all children that have lost their mothers, and all the fathers that have lost their daughters.

Happy
Mother's
Day!

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Día de la Madre sin la Madre: El endémico de violencia contra la mujer

El Día de la Madre es una celebración que ha sido festejada desde el tiempo de los griegos antiguos, y ha cambiado mucho durante los años. Al principio, era un festival de tres días de construir ofrendas que honraban a la madre de los dioses, y ahora es un día en el cual se honra el trabajo y dedicación de las madres y nuestro amor para ellas. En muchas partes del mundo y de América Latina, es uno de los días más esperados y celebrados. Sin embargo, este año será un día de felicidad y tristeza por igual.

Desde que empezó la pandemia, la violencia contra mujeres ha aumentado considerablemente. Mayormente esto es vivir en relaciones tóxicas y por el confinamiento mandatorio durante 2020. Es más, el feminicidio, asesinatos y otras formas de violencia contra mujeres continúa escalando en muchas partes de América Latina, pero, no es un problema nuevo de la pandemia. En 2018, la organización ONU Mujeres publicó los 25 países con las tasas más altas de violencia contra mujeres y América Latina y el Caribe estuvieron en el

lugar 14 de los 25 que clasificaron. Publicó, también, los 10 países más peligrosos para que las mujeres vivan; América Latina y el Caribe ocuparon el lugar 7 de los 10 que se mencionaron. El Observatorio de Igualdad de Género de América Latina y el Caribe reporta que 4.264 mujeres murieron de feminicidio durante 2020 y en 2021 las tasas subieron en México y otros países.

Este es un problema horroroso y persistente, pero hay organizaciones que están combatiendo este problema y hay soluciones que se pueden hacer también. Algunas organizaciones para la interrupción de la violencia a las que se puede donar o ayudar son: ONU Mujeres, Women Watch, La Fundación Isis Internacional y la Organización Mundial de la Salud entre otras. Además, se puede tratar de informar a otros del problema, organizar manifestaciones, o evitar apoyar empresas que donan a políticos o grupos que no apoyan los derechos de mujeres.

Como la mayoría de los problemas sociales, no hay una solución ni una solución simple, pero se mejoran estos problemas con

acción, dedicación y más concientización. No tenemos que abandonar nuestras vidas normales para ayudar a detener el feminicidio, pero se puede apoyar a quienes cada día tratan de mejorar las vidas de las mujeres. Por lo menos, este Día de la Madre se puede pensar por un momento en todos los chicos que han perdidos a sus madres y todos los padres que han perdido a sus hijas.



Grey Harris

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Dr. Camille Rodriguez, DPM, was born and raised on the historic North

Side of Fort Worth, Texas. A proud product of FWISD schools, Dr Rodriguez graduated from the Honor's Program at Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School. She is the first in her family to graduate from a university having graduated with a full academic scholarship from a historically black college, Prairie View A and M University, with a BS degree in Biology.

Dr. Rodriguez graduated with honors from New York College of Podiatric Medicine in New York City, NY. None of this would have been possible without the stellar education Dr. Rodriguez received from FWISD and the teachers and staff who believed in her dream to become a doctor and return to her community to address health disparities. Dr. Rodriguez kept

that promise, returning to North Side where she has practiced medicine for over 20 years.

Dr. Rodriguez was the youngest person to ever be elected to FWISD school board in 2004. In four short years on the board she accomplished much for her community including:

- Significantly increased student achievement for ALL student populations at all grades in ALL subjects. Indeed, the number of Texas State Recognized and Exemplary schools increased from 19 to 55 in just two years, and a 62% increase from 2008 to 2009
- Re-established public trust following a devastating scandal in FWISD
- Rebuilt the fund balance from less than one month's operating cost to a healthy, fiscally sound level
- Established a strong technology infrastructure through laying of 41 miles of cabling/networking, refreshing all the district's

computers. Moreover, FWISD became the first urban district in the nation to install 5,500 interactive whiteboards in every classroom.

Dr. Rodriguez has been a dedicated servant leader her entire life. She is a life member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc and has served on the boards of Artes de la Rosa, All Church Home for Children, Ballet Folklorico, and the Fort Worth Symphony. She was recently elected to become a member of DFW Chums, Inc. She has been a member of All Saints Catholic Church her entire life.

As a daughter of the North Side, Dr. Rodriguez is truly an extraordinary example of what can happen when an urban school district commits to education and lifts up all students.

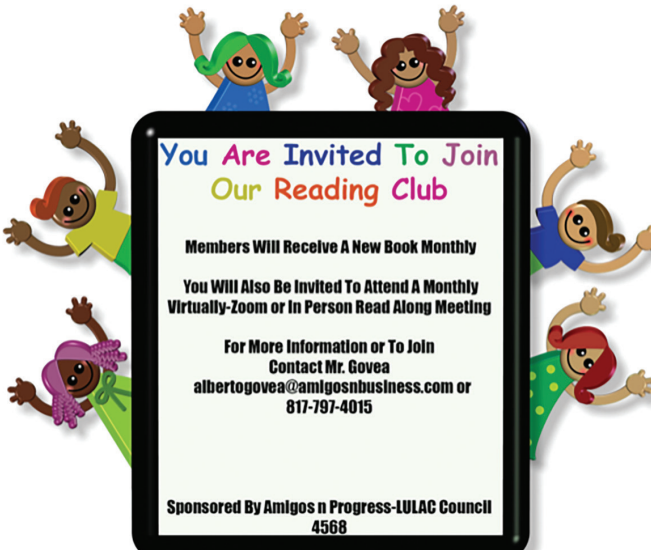
(Please note that Hola Texas does not endorse candidates and the other candidate in run-off was also invited to submit bio but did not)



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HOW HATE REACHES A TIPPING POINT - MEXICANS ON THE MENU

BY JOE LOYA, EMS

You'd see this phenomenon in prison. A guy in H-Unit would get beat down real bad with a heavy weight belt and get sent to the hospital with eye damage and missing teeth.

A couple weeks later a guy in I-Unit would get attacked by three prisoners with knives on the third floor but the victim's boyfriend would run up there with a metal folding You'd see this phenomenon in prison. A guy in H-Unit would get beat down real bad with a heavy weight belt and get sent to the hospital with eye damage and missing teeth.

A couple weeks later a guy in I-Unit would get attacked by three prisoners with knives on the third floor but the victim's boyfriend would run up there with a metal folding

chair and turn the tide. One guy would get smacked in the head with a chair, lose his knife and get tossed off the third tier.

The initial victim would pick up the dropped knife and start stabbing one of his attackers. In the melee, the second attacker would get throttled by that chair and also go to the hospital. The third knife wielding attacker would eventually get stabbed bad and learn hard the lesson how it ain't no fun when the rabbits got the gun.

A week later the Spirit of Chaos dialed up the mayhem and moved next door. A prisoner in J-Unit would be stabbed 32 times. After multiple surgeries he'd survive, lose a kidney, a finger, and 150 pounds. Barely dodged

being killed.

Of course, you know where this story is going. Next door. The Dark Spirit drifted.

Like Evil was born in that first burst of improvised weight belt violence and grew legs and moved next door. Then it grew emboldened with the second clash of men and blades, grew desire for more blood in the next unit, and finally grew so powerful it picked up speed.

To K-Unit. Within a week a prisoner would be slaughtered in his bed. Dead Eye told me a guard told him the dead man's eyeballs were resting on his cheeks.

We all saw it coming. Talked about it. Like something malevolent was moving through the buildings and we all hoped it wouldn't pick us to land on. But we all felt it's inevitability. Trained as we were to know how insecurity lurks in every heart and can turn any boy into a lethal missile if directed at someone with the right velocity. We knew the fear was building and so the temperature was rising so the violence would get more baroque. And swifter.

I've many times experienced this sort of Violent Tipping Point. I started robbing one bank at a time. I continued robbing one bank at a time, but with greater frequency. Then one day I robbed two banks in one day. Eventually I robbed a bank then the one right next door, before I got to my car, with the police on the way. I suppose that time I robbed four banks in one day was inevitable.





Sorry to say, but in this country the dye has been cast. It's useless for sheep to pass resolutions in favor of vegetarianism if wolves and lions got a whole other opinion on the matter. And the white supremacists with three hundred million guns in this country do. So no lion will be lying near a lamb anytime soon. Unless by lamb you mean lamb carnitas tacos. Then yeah, that's what's on the menu. Mexican meat.



Joe Loya is the author of the critically acclaimed memoir *The Man Who Outgrew His Prison Cell: Confessions of a Bank Robber*. He has appeared on CBS News, CNN, MSNBC, Fox's *O'Reilly Factor*, and other TV shows to comment on crime, culture, and religion. He joined the Board of Directors for Walden House, a reentry program, and has conducted writing workshops in reentry facilities and prisons across California. A podcast about Joe's life adventure - *The Diaries of a Bank Robber* - is expected to launch in October 2019.

Visit his website @ <https://www.joeloya.ltd/>

At some point early in every Revolution or Civil Wars in history they all reached a tipping point where they just had to happen. No turning back. No such thing as a reverse birth. The clock had been wound so there was nothing to do but wait to watch it strike. The Reformation tried to happen for a couple hundred years before it finally broke out with Luther. The conditions were set. So, the alarm rang.

The physics of rage, the propulsion of the chaos it unleashes, takes a long time to burn itself out once unleashed. Societies break down in terrible bloody ways and the mayhem becomes fuckin gothic. Then the neighbors that survive come back home and repair shit. Till the next great falling

down. Think Rwanda. Or the Bosnian War. Things fall apart. The center cannot hold. Ashes to ashes. We all fall down.

I believe we've reached a tipping point in this country. The fragility of the white male ego has reached a tipping point so they're gonna continue to point the tip of their gun at us until the nation fights through another civil war and a bunch of us are dead and the survivors simply get tired of all the killing.

Like in prison, after the K-Unit murder, tensions subsided in the prison for a while. Everyone took a long collective breath. Except the dead guy. No more breathing for him. Fortunately, for him, only the dead know the end of strife and civil war.

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