



# State of New Mexico

## *New Mexico State Police*

February 28, 2008

1:00 p.m.

Contact:

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Public Information Officer

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For Immediate Release

## **Chimayo Man Charged with Involuntary Manslaughter in Homicide Case**

Espanola: On February 22, 2008 at approximately 2:15pm, State Police responded to a call regarding a man who had been shot in Chimayo, New Mexico. The man was reportedly being driven to the hospital in Espanola, New Mexico. An ambulance had been dispatched and rendezvoused with the parties involved, near the El Paragua Restaurant in Espanola. The gunshot victim was identified as 25 year old Moses Martinez of Chimayo. He had been transported by 18 year old, Julio Gurule of Chimayo and his girlfriend. Gurule and his girlfriend initially claimed to be witnesses to the shooting and gave conflicting statements. When State Police investigators learned the pair were more than witnesses, they transported them to the state police office for further investigation. Martinez was transported by ambulance to the Espanola Hospital where he was pronounced dead at approximately 2:51pm.

Gurule initially claimed that he and his girlfriend encountered Moses Martinez walking in Chimayo and stopped to give him a ride. He claimed that Martinez spotted another vehicle and asked Gurule to stop. Gurule added that Martinez walked to the other vehicle and returned with a gun to show Gurule. Gurule claimed the gun fired accidentally and struck Martinez in the chest. During the investigation, police learned that the shooting occurred at Rio Arriba County Road 95, House # 127A. At that residence, investigators discovered 16 year old, Antonio Martinez of Chimayo, raking dirt and debris in an apparent attempt to cover up blood evidence. Antonio Martinez was detained and later charged with Tampering with Evidence. Gurule was confronted with the knowledge of the shooting occurring at this address and later admitted that they had all been at this residence looking at a pair of rifles and were planning on going out to target practice.

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Gurule stated that he was inspecting one of the rifles, Moses Martinez wanted to see it, however; Gurule was not ready to relinquish it to him. Gurule claimed that Martinez grabbed the rifle and it accidentally fired, striking Martinez in the chest area. Gurule claimed he did not know the gun was loaded. Gurule attempted to conceal the rifles in his vehicle while they transported Martinez to Espanola. Julio Gurule has been charged with Involuntary manslaughter and Tampering with evidence. His bond was set at \$50,000. His family has since posted the bond.

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