

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GREENVILLE MAN RECEIVES LIFE PRISON SENTENCE FOR MURDER

A Greenville man received a life prison sentence without parole today after a jury decided that he shot a Greer man to death.

Manuel Marin, 44, was found guilty of murder and possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime at the conclusion of a three-day jury trial in Spartanburg. Marin shot 30-year-old Nelson Fernando Tabares to death on July 21, 2008.

The murder occurred while Marin and Tabares rode in a car together on Highway 29. The men left a Greenville nightclub together after the business closed and drove into western Spartanburg County looking for Tabares' home. Marin, the driver, shot Tabares twice in the back of the head when the victim attempted to reach for the steering wheel from his position as a back seat passenger. The shooting occurred near Tucapau Road and Marin continued driving to the intersection of West Main Street and Daniel Morgan Avenue in the City of Spartanburg. Marin stopped the car when another passenger attempted to flee.

Sheriff's deputies jailed Marin in the hours following the shooting based on information obtained from witnesses.

Assistant Solicitor Susan Reese utilized witness testimony and forensic evidence to successfully argue the case in court.

"Manuel Marin introduced a gun into a rock, paper, scissors fight," Reese said. "He could have applied the brakes and told Mr. Tabares to get out of the car. Instead, he produced a handgun and shot the victim twice at point-blank range.

"No reasonable person behaves this way," Reese added.

Tabares was a professor at Greenville Tech and he was involved in several civic activities.

For more information, contact Murray Glenn at 809-4892.

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