



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Executive Office of Public Safety and Security*  
*Parole Board*



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**RECORD OF DECISION**

**IN THE MATTER OF**  
**HECTOR GONZALEZ**  
**W44199**

**TYPE OF HEARING:** Review  
**DATE OF HEARING:** May 3, 2011  
**DATE OF DECISION:** May 31, 2011

**PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS:** Cesar Archilla, John Bocon, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Ina Howard-Hogan, Roger Michel, Lucy Soto-Abbe, Josh Wall

**DECISION OF THE BOARD:** Hector Gonzalez seeks parole from a life sentence for stabbing his wife to death. The parole request of Hector Gonzalez is denied. The vote is unanimous (7 to 0). The review will be in five years as required by statute. Mr. Gonzalez murdered his wife as the culmination of domestic terror in which he sexually assaulted three young stepdaughters for years, and then stabbed his wife to death because she reported one of the sexual assaults to the police. In prison, he has been terminated from sex offender treatment twice in recent years; he was terminated both times because he had no empathy for his victims. He deserves further punishment and he remains too dangerous for parole.

**I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

Hector Gonzalez has been incarcerated for 25 years. He sought parole, unsuccessfully, in 2001 and 2006. Mr. Gonzalez lived in Springfield in the 1980s with his wife, Sonia Torres, and her three daughters. Mr. Gonzalez committed repeated sexual assaults on the three young girls. Sonia Torres caught him, by walking in during one of the assaults, on February 2, 1986; she confronted him and he ran from the apartment. Sonia Torres and her oldest daughter went to the police and reported the sexual assault which Sonia Torres witnessed. She and her daughters went to stay with a relative rather than live again in the family apartment. Sonia Torres returned to the apartment four days later on February 6, simply for the purpose of retrieving personal items for the girls; she was accompanied by one of the young girls. Unbeknownst to Sonia Torres, Mr. Gonzalez was hiding in the apartment. Knowing that his criminal perversion had been reported to the police, Mr. Gonzalez armed himself with a knife

and set upon his family members. He stabbed Sonia Torres multiple times in the chest, ensuring her death. He sliced his ten-year-old stepdaughter twice; the injuries were not life threatening.

Shortly after the murder, the two oldest girls disclosed sexual assaults that occurred too frequently to count. The oldest daughter, age 14, described sexual assaults that began at age seven and progressed to forcible acts of intercourse. The second daughter, age twelve at the time of disclosure, described abusive sexual intercourse that began at age seven and continued for five years; there were periods when the sexual assaults occurred daily. Mr. Gonzalez hit her if she offered resistance, and threatened to kill her mother if she told.

Mr. Gonzalez impregnated both older girls, and they gave birth to and raised those children.

Mr. Gonzalez pleaded guilty to second degree murder, three counts of rape of child with force, three counts of indecent assault and battery on a child, and one count of assault with intent to rape a child. The seven sentences for child sexual assault ran concurrently with each other and with the life sentence; he has completed those sentences that specifically punish his sexual violence and perversion.

## **II. OTHER CRIMINAL CONDUCT**

Mr. Gonzalez's criminal conduct was so extensive that specific charges and sentences could not capture and punish every criminal act. He pleaded guilty to seven crimes involving two stepdaughters. The youngest stepdaughter was his third sexual assault victim; that conduct was uncharged, presumably because the younger child disclosed the sexual assaults after the criminal case was indicted. Mr. Gonzalez admitted at the parole hearing (and during an interview conducted by parole staff in 2011) that he sexually assaulted all three girls for years. The youngest stepdaughter testified at the parole hearing; she described that Mr. Gonzalez began assaulting her when she was three years old; the assaults continued until the murder, when she was age eleven. The third victim described at the parole hearing particularly chilling details. Mr. Gonzalez owned a machete which he sharpened daily in front of the children; as he sharpened the machete, he threatened to kill their mother if they told. Mr. Gonzalez used his religious practices as a tool of sexual assault: he took the three girls to Catholic Mass; their mother was not a Catholic and did not accompany them on the Sunday journeys; Mr. Gonzalez used Sundays as an opportunity to sexual assault the girls on the way to church and on the way home.

The victims have consistent accounts of Mr. Gonzalez beating everyone in the household. He punched them, kicked them, and beat them with a belt. Sonia Torres was regularly beaten when she tried to stop Mr. Gonzalez from beating one of the children. In an interview with parole staff in 2011, Mr. Gonzalez admitted that he forced sex by intimidating the girls and threatening to beat them; he also admitted that he beat his wife as a further method of causing fear in his stepdaughters.

A fourth child lived in the household; she was the biological daughter of Mr. Gonzalez and Sonia Torres. She gave a statement to Springfield Police on February 13, 1986. "I am eight years old and in the third grade. Hector Gonzalez, who is my real father, used to hit me a lot, all the time. He would use a belt, or his hands, and he hit me all over my body. He started to do this when I was about six years old. Sometimes I did something bad when he hit me, but sometimes he hit me just when he thought I had done something, and I didn't do anything. This happened almost every day, but not every day. He hit my brothers and sisters, too. He

left black and blue marks. My mother would try to stop him, and he would tell her to shut up, and he would hit her too."

Mr. Gonzalez also has an earlier conviction for sexual assault in Pennsylvania; he said that victim was a young adult female.

### III. THE PAROLE HEARING ON MAY 3, 2011

Sonia Torres has been dead for 25 years. Her three daughters have not forgotten her or her attempt to protect them that led to her murder. All three daughters appeared at the hearing and spoke against parole. The two oldest daughters, whom Mr. Gonzalez impregnated, have raised each of those two children to adulthood; those children are now age 26 and 25. The three sisters remember the repeated sexual assaults, the repeated physical beatings, and the loss of their mother. They clarified certain facts of the criminal conduct, including at what age the assaults began.

First Assistant District Attorney James Orenstein appeared on behalf of the Hampden County District Attorney and opposed parole.

Mr. Gonzalez admitted to the facts of the cases, including the uncharged conduct. He said that during the sexual assaults the victims were afraid and that made him "feel stronger." He admitted causing the two pregnancies. He also agreed that he has twice failed to complete sex offender treatment; he admitted that on each occasion he was terminated from treatment because he was unable to show empathy for his victims. He has had no mental health counseling. He agreed that, "I am where I belong."

### IV. DECISION

Parole is denied. The facts of depravity and danger speak for themselves and do not require further analysis or explanation. Having been unsuccessful in sex offender treatment, Mr. Gonzalez can make no credible claim that he is rehabilitated. Parole at this time would undermine the sentencing goals of protecting the public from Mr. Gonzalez and adequately punishing Mr. Gonzalez. *See Commonwealth v. Goodwin*, 414 Mass. 88 (1993). The review will be in five years, as required by statute.

*I certify that this is the decision and reasons of the Massachusetts Parole Board regarding the above referenced hearing.*

Josh Wall  
Chairman

May 31, 2011  
Date