

U.S. border agent who shot Mexican teenager acquitted of murder



Tucson, April 25 (RHC)-- In Tucson, Arizona, a federal jury has acquitted Border Patrol agent Lonnie Swartz on murder charges, nearly six years after he shot and killed a 16-year-old Mexican teenager.

José Antonio Rodríguez was unarmed and walking along a sidewalk in Nogales, Sonora, when Swartz fired on him through the border wall from the U.S. side. An autopsy showed Rodríguez was shot 10 times -- with two bullets in his head and eight in his back.

Swartz was cleared of second-degree murder, while the jury deadlocked on two lesser manslaughter charges; prosecutors said after the trial they were considering whether to bring a new manslaughter trial against Swartz.

Following the verdict, scores of protesters marched from the courthouse and blocked busy intersections in downtown Tucson.



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