

Three men imprisoned in attack, stabbing

BY KEITH EPPS / THE FREE LANCE-STAR

Jun 28, 2013

Three men who participated in a brutal stabbing last year in Fredericksburg were sentenced Friday to prison terms ranging from six to 12 years.

Ever Contreras, 35, was nearly killed during a Sept. 9 dispute that began as he was walking on Roffman Road off Fall Hill Avenue.

Contreras suffered a punctured lung and other injuries and spent 11 days in intensive care at Mary Washington Hospital, prosecutor Travis Bird said.

Contreras, who Bird said was left for dead, remains unable to work a full day.

Jose Maldonado, 28, got the 12-year sentence from Judge William Shaw. Maldonado stabbed Contreras at least six times, the evidence showed.

His brother, 38-year-old Ismael Maldonado, was ordered to serve 10 years. He held Contreras while his brother stabbed him.

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Francisco Dareo-Martinez got the six-year sentence. He beat Contreras with a pool stick during the attack, Bird said.

The three defendants, who were in the country illegally, were convicted of such charges as aggravated malicious wounding and assault by mob.

According to the evidence presented by Bird, Contreras was walking with a friend when the defendants began teasing him about his clothes and the way he walks.

Contreras eventually hit Jose Maldonado in the head with a beer bottle before running toward his nearby home.

The man who was with Contreras ran in the opposite direction.

The suspects chased Contreras around the Central Park Townhomes and caught up with him in his back yard.

They attacked him while his wife and others watched. One of them finally said, “let’s go, he’s dead” in Spanish when the attack ended.

Tim Barbrow, Jose Maldonado’s attorney, said that his client claims that the incident started when Contreras and his friend chased Ismael Maldonado from the 7-Eleven.

In the defense version of the story, the other defendants came out to assist Ismael Maldonado and the dispute escalated after Contreras used the beer bottle.

But Bird said that even if the defense version was true, getting a knife and going into Contreras’ yard went too far.

“You don’t get to bring a knife to a fist fight,” Bird said.

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