



## Man receives 15-year sentence for role in fatal kidnapping

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BARTOW - A 36-year-old Kissimmee man involved in a kidnapping of a man who was later killed was sentenced on Thursday to 15 years in prison.

Omar Manzano was sentenced by Circuit Judge Jalal Harb after a plea agreement was reached that he would not be sentenced to more than 20 years in prison in exchange for his testimony in the cases against Manuel Ayala and Julio "Alex" Morales-Rivera, said Paul Wallace, assistant state attorney. Both Ayala and Morales-Rivera were sentenced to life in prison for the fatal 2011 shooting death of George "Teddy" Rivera, of Orlando.

His body was found in Poinciana near the county line with gunshot wounds to the back.

In July, Ayala, 45, of Kissimmee, was found guilty of first-degree murder in the death of Rivera. Prosecutors sought the death penalty but a jury returned with a life sentence recommendation for Ayala.

A co-defendant in the case, Julio "Alex" Morales-Rivera, was found guilty of first-degree murder in the shooting earlier this year. Prosecutors did not pursue the death penalty in that case.

The day Rivera disappeared, two men showed up at his Orlando home wearing shirts that read "security" or "sheriff."

His daughters told police the two men asked for Rivera by name.

Rivera had plans to meet with Ayala's wife and to spend time with his family later that day. Ayala suspected Rivera was having an affair with his wife.

Rivera got into the car and was never seen alive again. His body was found about 3 miles from Ayala's home.

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