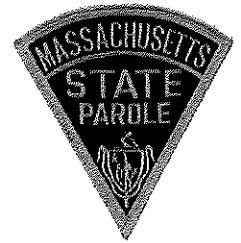


The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety and Security

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RECORD OF DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF

HECTOR GONZALEZ
W44199

TYPE OF HEARING: **Review Hearing**

DATE OF HEARING: **May 13, 2025**

DATE OF DECISION: **October 7, 2025**

PARTICIPATING BOARD MEMBERS: Edith J. Alexander, Dr. Charlene Bonner, Tonomey Coleman, Sarah B. Coughlin, James Kelcourse, Rafael Ortiz

VOTE: Parole is denied with a review in 4 years from the date of the hearing.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY: On November 16, 1987, in Hampden Superior Court, 40-year-old Hector Gonzalez pleaded guilty to the second-degree murder of 30-year-old Sonia Torres. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole. On that same date, Mr. Gonzalez pleaded guilty to three counts of rape of a child with force, three counts of indecent assault and battery on a child under 14, and one count of assault with intent to rape a child under 16 for the repeated abuse of Ms. Torres' three daughters. He received sentences of 12 to 15 years on each of the rape counts and sentences of 8 to 10 years for the remaining counts. All sentences, including the life sentence, were ordered to run concurrently. Parole was denied following an initial hearing in 2001, and after review hearings in 2006, 2011, 2016, and 2021.

On May 13, 2025, Hector Gonzalez appeared before the Board for a review hearing. He was not represented by an attorney. The Board's decision fully incorporates by reference the entire video recording of Mr. Gonzalez's May 13, 2025, hearing.

STATEMENT OF THE CASE: In the early 1980's, Hector Gonzalez lived in Springfield with his girlfriend, Sonia Torres, and her three daughters. For several years, Mr. Gonzalez committed sexual assaults, including multiple acts of rape, on the three girls. On February 2, 1986, Ms. Torres walked in on Mr. Gonzalez when he was in the process of sexually assaulting her oldest daughter (age 14). After Ms. Torres reported the assault to police, her daughters left to stay with a relative at another location. On February 6, 1986, when Ms. Torres and her 11-year-old

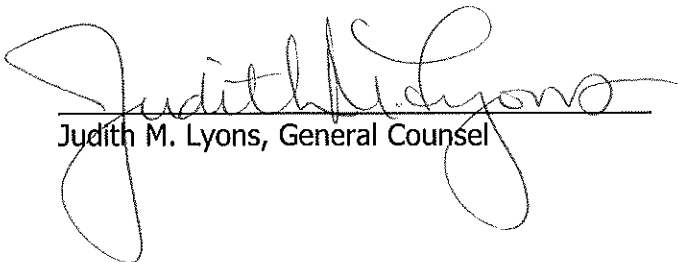
daughter returned to the apartment they shared with him to retrieve some belongings, Mr. Gonzalez was hiding in the apartment with a kitchen knife. He proceeded to stab Ms. Torres multiple times in the chest and then sliced her daughter's hands twice. Ms. Torres succumbed to her injuries at Springfield Hospital a short time later. Mr. Gonzalez fled the apartment to New Jersey, where he was apprehended the following day.

After their mother's murder, Ms. Torres' daughters disclosed the extent of the sexual assaults perpetrated upon them by Mr. Gonzalez. The 14-year-old child reported that the assaults began with fondling when she was seven and then progressed to forced vaginal rape. The 12-year-old child reported that the sexual assaults began when she was seven and continued for five years, sometimes daily. Mr. Gonzalez beat the girls when they resisted and threatened to kill their mother if they told anyone. Mr. Gonzalez impregnated both girls, who subsequently gave birth and raised the children.

APPLICABLE STANDARD: Parole "[p]ermits shall be granted only if the Board is of the opinion, after consideration of a risk and needs assessment, that there is a reasonable probability that, if the prisoner is released with appropriate conditions and community supervision, the prisoner will live and remain at liberty without violating the law and that release is not incompatible with the welfare of society." M.G.L. c. 127, § 130. In making this determination, the Board takes into consideration an inmate's institutional behavior, their participation in available work, educational, and treatment programs during the period of incarceration, and whether risk reduction programs could effectively minimize the inmate's risk of recidivism. M.G.L. c. 127, § 130. The Board also considers all relevant facts, including the nature of the underlying offense, the age of the inmate at the time of the offense, the criminal record, the institutional record, the inmate's testimony at the hearing, and the views of the public as expressed at the hearing and/or in written submissions to the Board if applicable.

DECISION OF THE BOARD: This is Mr. Gonzalez's 6th appearance before the Board. The facts and circumstances of the underlying crimes are particularly disturbing. Mr. Gonzalez has prior sex offense convictions. Despite completing the Sex Offender Treatment Program, Mr. Gonzalez does not present with appropriate insight or remorse with regard to his actions. He does not present with a comprehensive parole plan. The Board concludes by unanimous decision that Mr. Gonzalez has not demonstrated a level of rehabilitation that would make his release compatible with the welfare of society. The Board considered testimony in opposition to parole from Ms. Torres' family members, as well as Hampden County Assistant District Attorney Lee Baker.

I certify that this is the decision and reasons of the Massachusetts Parole Board regarding the above-referenced hearing. Pursuant to G.L. c. 127, § 130, I further certify that all voting Board Members have reviewed the applicant's entire criminal record. This signature does not indicate authorship of the decision.



Judith M. Lyons, General Counsel

10/7/25
Date