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New Trials for Men Convicted in Littlefield Murder

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Two men serving life sentences for the murder of a Panhandle convenience store clerk have been granted new trials. The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals in Austin has ruled they received ineffective counsel the first time around.

Jesus Ramirez, 59, and Alberto Sifuentes, 34, were convicted in separate trials for the 1996 shooting death of Evangelina Cruz. The mother of four was shot nine times at close range in Littlefield, about 35 miles northwest of Lubbock.

Before she died, Cruz dialed 911 and gave a description of her attackers.

Court documents show there was no DNA, no blood, no gun or any other evidence that tied the two men to the crime. The men's convictions were initially upheld on appeal.

Lamb County District Attorney Mark Yarbrough says the men will be retried.

Source: AP

Courts & Crime



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