

I am truly sorry to Gilbert and his entire family for killing him in cold blood. I take full responsibility for my heinous and senseless actions on May 16, 2009, the night I murdered Gilbert; I killed a part of his family and terrorized the entire community as AS a whole.

I realize that the environment I grew up in and the causative factors, such as a broken home, drugs, violence, and criminal gang activity that it entailed contributed in playing a major role in my life term offence. Nevertheless, I had a choice, and I chose wrong. I allowed my impulsivity, negative behavior, as well as my weakness of peer pressure to overcome me on that dreadful night.

I wasn't forced to be part of the lifestyle of a gang-member, but I made the decision to seek it. I loved the affirmation I got from my "homies". I ignored that life is about real decisions and consequences. I am paying for my decisions, and I will continue to pay for the rest of my life in order to reverse some of the effects that my actions have caused many; yet, knowing I can never bring Gilbert back.

I faced my wrongs, and have reconciled my internal fears. I had to redevelop a moral compass to guide me so that I could grow spiritually, intellectually, morally, and emotionally; this was/is not an easy thing to do, having to renew my mind, but definitely necessary. I had to admit that I had little to no regard for others, including a human life, unless it benefitted me in some way. I now realize that it stems from me not appreciating the gift of life that I was given. In hind sight, I now see the countless people who were in my life, whether briefly or long term, who shared with me time, wisdom, and experience in order that I may have the tools to succeed and live peaceable with others; I valued none of it.

My life now, is going in another direction. Today, I get up every day with hope that I have in my capacity to contribute to the quality of another's life, and vice-versa; this was not always the case, by far. I now have a clean and contrite heart, drug free, and healthy. I don't think about drinking or consuming drugs as I used to; I quickly bring those thoughts under subjection to my new thought process. I understand that my past fears, anger, insecurities, and hurts were processed through a very unhealthy and detrimental manner; drug abuse and violence.

I regret that I allowed many negative things to affect my way of thinking; it became a false belief system that eventually manifested into a lifestyle. The remorse I have for killing Gilbert is now evident in the way I conduct myself, choosing to live in his honor; however, with much room for improvement, this will be a life-long process.

My life of crime, or rather the effects of it, has impressed upon me a need for a continuous positive change in order to eliminate the conditioning of my thought patterns and high-risk behaviors that could negatively impact others, and myself in the future. I've come to learn that it is only by action in the present that we can change what otherwise would have come to pass. My solemn oath to Gilbert Chavez, to his family, to society, to the parole panel, and ultimately to myself, is that my life has changed, and is evolving in the interest of society, and humanity as a whole. I am grateful for this opportunity to express myself. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Claudio R. Jimenez #AN0001