Illegal immigrant who had been deported four times is jailed for life for killing 5 neighbors



A illegal immigrant who had been deported four times before he killed five people in Texas in 2023 after a neighbor complained that he was keeping a baby awake by firing a gun in his yard late at night has pleaded guilty to the mass murder.

Francisco Oropeza, 38, a Mexican national, will serve a life sentence without the possibility of parole after pleading guilty to capital murder of multiple persons as part of a deal to avoid a possible death sentence.

Oropeza was offered the deal after prosecutors had lengthy discussions with family members of the victims, San Jacinto County District Attorney Todd Dillon said.

U.S. immigration officials said Oropeza had been deported four times between 2009 and 2016, but Dillon said he will spend the rest of his life behind bars in Texas.

'He is not eligible for deportation. He is not eligible for anything,' Dillon said. 'He will stay in the custody of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice until he breathes his last breath.'

Oropeza entered the pleas Wednesday after listening to emotional testimony from family members of the victims, Dillon said.

Sonia Argentina Guzmán Taibot, 28, Daniel Enrique Lazo Guzmán, 8, Josué Jonatan Cáceres, 18, Diana Velasquez Alvarado, 21 and Obdulia Molina Rivera, 31 were all killed.

- Survivor Wilson Garcia, described the terror of losing his wife, Argentina Guzmán Taibot, and son, Daniel.
- 'We had company. We were going to make something to eat. The guy came out, and he was shooting. We asked him to be quiet 'cause my baby was scared,' Garcia told KTRK.
- Before Garcia had time to call police, Oropeza walked to the front door and shot his wife.
- The gunman fired at Garcia but missed. Then Oropeza went into the home going from room to room, massacring the four other victims.
- 'I never thought that he would shoot. I never had a problem with him. I can't believe what he did,' Garcia said.
- Oropeza's attorney, Anthony Osso Sr. previously said that tension between Oropeza and his neighbors had been building for quite some time.
- Police say Oropeza stormed into his neighbor's house on April 28, 2023, after being asked to stop firing his 'AR-style rifle' gun late at night.
- All five victims including a eight-year-old boy, were from Honduras. The baby wasn't harmed.

The four victims were shot in the head. Two female victims were found in the bedroom lying on two surviving children.

The shooting happened in the rural town of Cleveland, about 45 miles north of Houston.

Police say Oropeza fled the neighborhood after the shooting, setting off an intense search.

He was was eventually arrested four days later after an extensive manhunt near Conroe, roughly 20 miles from the crime scene.