

# RACHEL'S RESOLUTION

On August 6, 2008 I had contacted Rachel Begley, the daughter of Ralph Boger who had been killed in a Cabazon-related triple homicide in June 1981. After speaking with Rachel, it became apparent that there is a new generation on the horizon, the cowboys are aging and on the way out, and their legacy of war, corruption and greed will be left to the history books. Because the Octopus and its tentacles cared nothing for the future, it is unlikely that their machine will survive them. Rachel believed that through attrition, America will survive this page in its history, and emerge wiser. In the following months Rachel proved that one woman can make a difference in clipping the tentacles of the Octopus.

For 28 years Rachel Begley waited for the murderer(s) of her father, Ralph Boger, 42, Fred Alvarez, 32, vice-chairman of the Cabazon Indian Tribal Council, and Patricia Castro, 44, to be brought to justice.

For three of those years, Begley actively investigated the execution-style triple slaying while gathering documents and secretly taping interviews with suspects and placing them on her website.

The executions took place on June 29, 1981 while Alvarez, Boger and Castro relaxed in the back patio of Alvarez's rented home on Bob Hope Drive in Rancho Mirage, California. The three victims each were shot with a single .38 caliber bullet to the head, according to an autopsy report. There were no visible signs of a struggle. Their bodies were discovered on July 1 by former tribal chairman Joe Benitez and Cabazon member William Callaway.

Fred Alvarez, along with Benitez and Callaway, were scheduled to meet at 10 A.M. on July 1 with Steve Rios, an attorney in San Juan

Capistrano, to initiate an investigation of Cabazon tribal affairs, according to the *Indio Daily News* dated 7-1-81.

Alvarez, Benitez, and Calloway had previously divulged their findings to Paul Zalis at the *Daily News* in May 1981 (currently known as the *Desert Sun*), asserting to the reporter that they were marked for death, but their story never got published.

The *Indio Daily News* *did* report the subsequent killings of Alvarez, Boger and Castro however. Staff writer Paul Zalis wrote that Indio City Manager Phillip Hawes confirmed that William Cole, a Los Angeles-based attorney, had been hired to investigate possible links between the triple slayings and the Cabazon Casino. Cole said his office was coordinating efforts with the Riverside County Sheriff's Department in investigating the murders. He noted that "sheriff's deputies had confiscated papers from the Alvarez home and he expected officials to turn those over to his office."

"Detective Gordon Hunter said the sheriff's department was 'investigating leads' into the Alvarez slayings, but said he had no 'knowledge' of whether deputies had confiscated any of Alvarez's papers," wrote Zalis.

Alvarez's mother, Phyllis, told the *Indio Daily News* that "she believed the murders were the result of a 'Mafia contract.' She also said her son was killed because he was trying to get the Cabazon Casino shut down."

Rachel Begley was 13 years old when her father, Ralph Boger, and his friends were murdered. She never gave up hope that the killers would be prosecuted, and consistently prodded local jurisdictions over a span of years to get the case re-opened. Her efforts were rewarded when Detective John Powers at the Riverside Sheriff's department was assigned to the cold-case file in 2007.

Their respective findings resemble the stuff of spy novels, comprised of all the malevolent dynamics of clandestine government agents and organized crime figures involved in murder, money laundering and covert arms deals while exploiting Indian sovereignty (independent of most U.S. laws) at the Cabazon reservation.

The triple-homicide case was originally investigated by Deputy Attorney General Sanford Feldman and Special Agent Frank E. Brock respectively, both from the special investigations unit of the state Department of Justice, San Diego, California. Decades later,

Detective Powers re-opened the case based on the information provided by Rachel Begley in November 2007.

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The public background to the story began with the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, located 25 miles east of Palm Springs, California. According to public historical data, on May 15, 1876, President Ulysses S. Grant issued an executive order which officially created the Cabazon Reservation, consisting of 2,400 acres over three parcels of desert (later reduced to 1,700 acres).

After more than a century in the desert, the tribal nation began blazing the path for Native American gaming in California. [http://www.indiangaming.com/istore/Dec08\\_Cabazon.pdf](http://www.indiangaming.com/istore/Dec08_Cabazon.pdf)

According to a *San Francisco Chronicle* article entitled, "Tiny California Tribe's Huge Clout," dated September 4, 1991, in 1980 a rundown warehouse was transformed into the "Cabazon Indian Casino," the first Indian card room in the nation. Tommy Marson, described in congressional hearings as a known associate of the Gambino crime family, "lent the Cabazon tribal administrator, John Philip Nichols, \$50,000 to start the casino, according to Nichols' son, John Paul. The manager of the casino was Rocco Zangari, a former bookie later indicted on racketeering charges."

Citing local ordinances forbidding gambling, Indio police staged a series of raids on the casino in 1981, but Cabazon lawyers fought back, winning a court injunction that not only prohibited local law enforcement from interfering with gambling activities on the reservation, but ultimately led to a Supreme Court ruling on February 25, 1987 that neither the State of California nor Riverside County could regulate the bingo and card game operations of the Cabazon Band of Mission Indians. This landmark case, known as the "Cabazon Decision," made them the *first* tribe in California to establish non-regulated gaming and resulted in the creation of the Indian gaming industry. The Cabazon tribe had established high-stakes bingo that same year, in 1987.

The National Indian Gaming Commission was subsequently established pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988. <http://www.nigc.gov/> The purpose of NIGC was to "shield Indian tribes from organized crime and other corrupting influences; to ensure that Indian tribes are the primary beneficiaries of gaming revenue; and to assure that gaming is conducted fairly ---"

As of this writing, there are fewer than 55 members of the Cabazon Band. <http://www.fantasyspringsresort.com/cbmi/index.html> As owners and operators of Fantasy Springs Resort Casino in Indio, the Cabazon tribe oversees the 12-story, 250-room hotel, Vegas-style casino with nearly 2,000 slots, 40 table games, an off-track betting room, and virtual poker room as well as five restaurants.

The darker, more obscure aspects of this success story bubbled to the surface in 1980 when Fred Alvarez, vice-chairman of the Cabazon Indian Tribal Council, wrote a letter to Ronald Reagan outlining criminal enterprises that he had uncovered at the reservation. This was one month prior to the Presidential election. It is unknown why Fred wrote to Reagan during a time when Reagan held no political position. All copies of the letter disappeared after Fred's murder, but a response, signed personally by Ronald Reagan, dated October 6, 1980 was subsequently found in which Reagan said he found Alvarez's comments to be "very interesting."

Authorities explain that the cash nature of Indian gaming made it an ideal business to launder money. That same lack of accountability made it easy for an *outside management* company to skim the vast majority of an operation's income. "Someone will come in and manage the operation, when in fact the purpose is to skim the profits," said one FBI supervisor.

Reagan was elected president of the United States in November 1980, and took office in January 1981, almost six months before the Alvarez, Boger, Castro triple homicide occurred. With all *resistance eliminated* at the Cabazon reservation, it marked the beginning of government exploitation of the tiny band of Indians when "outside management" in the form of Cabazon tribal administrator John Philip Nichols formed a joint venture with Wackenhut International, a Florida-based security firm run by former FBI, CIA, NSA and military officials.

Police reports indicate that Nichols previously did business in Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Panama, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Mexico, Chile, Brazil, the Netherlands, England, Canada, France, Spain, Japan, Korea and Taiwan. In 1960 Nichols became the manager of a Coca-Cola bottling plant in Sao Paolo, Brazil, then he became a Pentecostal leader of the Chilean Pentecostal movement and attended several evangelical and gospel congresses in Bolivia.

When Nichols was hired in 1978, he wrote himself a 10-year contract with the Cabazon tribe that gave him 50 percent of the profits of any business he brought to the reservation. In the summer of 1980 and during the next three years, Nichols embarked on a series of international security and military ventures to provide security for Crown Prince Fahd's Saudi Arabia palace, proposals to manufacture 120mm combustible cartridge cases on the reservation and in Latin America, along with 9mm machine pistols, laser-sighted assault weapons, sniper rifles and portable rocket systems. At one point he even sought a contract to develop biological weapons on the reservation.

In January 1985, John Philip Nichols was arrested for hiring a man to solicit the murder of five people for drug-related reasons, but the murders were not carried out due to his arrest. He was convicted of felony murder solicitation. (While serving 18 months in the California Institution for Men in Chino, John Philip Nichols' son, John Paul Nichols, took over his position as acting administrator of the Cabazon tribe. In 1989, Mark Nichols inherited the position of administrator from his brother, John Paul Nichols).

A *Los Angeles Times* article entitled, "Indian's Aide Held in Alleged Slaying Plot," dated January 19, 1985 reported that Indio Police Capt. Carl Kennedy was unable to connect the murder-for-hire proposal leading to Nichols' arrest with the unsolved July, 1981 execution murders of Fred Alvarez, Ralph Boger, and Patricia Castro in Rancho Mirage. "The killings were investigated without success by the Riverside County Sheriff's office," according to the *Times*, "but official interest in the murders was renewed last year [1984] when Jimmy Hughes, a 27-year-old ex-Army Ranger, told authorities that he had been the payoff man in the Alvarez case." (As noted in the Peter Zokosky interview, he had convinced Jimmy Hughes to talk to authorities and had driven him to Indio for the meeting).

Hughes, security director of the Cabazon band's casino and bingo operations for four years until early 1984, reported that he had been instructed in [John Philip] Nichols' presence to take \$5,000 to the mountain community of Idyllwild in the summer of 1981 and give the money to a man there as partial payment for the Alvarez killings.

The *Los Angeles Times* reported that the Riverside County sheriff's office and the state Department of Justice initiated an inves-

tigation, but after months without announced results, [Jimmy] Hughes went public with his information in October 1984, then moved out of Riverside County. Coincidentally, at that same time (1984), Jimmy Hughes' cousin, Rod Pacheco, worked as a prosecutor at the Riverside County District Attorney's Office.

Indio Police Chief Curtis R. "Sam" Cross, who worked on the murder-solicitation case against John Philip Nichols, told the *Press Enterprise* in Riverside, California in March 1985 that he sent a letter to Rep. Jim Bates, D-San Diego, requesting a congressional investigation of the Cabazon Indians' business ventures.

Nothing ever came of all the investigations in the 1980's.

Despite all the allegations set forth over the years, Senator John McCain, R-Ariz., vice chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs, refused to intercede in Cabazon affairs, noting, " --- By solemn treaty with the Indian tribes, recently affirmed by President Bush, we must treat Native Americans as sovereign nations."



On the tenth anniversary of the triple-murders, Barbara Clark, the aunt of Fred Alvarez, sent a 4-page letter to the Cabazon Nation in Indio. The letter was dated June 28, 1991. Clark wrote that her nephew, Fred Alvarez, had visited with her in Truckee, California two weeks prior to his death. While they ate breakfast she said Fred discussed things that were going on at the Cabazon reservation, such as "dealings with the Contras, plans for weapons sales, and mismanagement of the tribal business."

Fred told his aunt that he planned to meet with an attorney "to get everything documented." He added that "the management of the tribal business wanted him out of the way --- He knew they had placed a contract out on him, and he even knew who the hit man was." Clark didn't ask the name of the hit man because she didn't take Fred seriously at the time.

Clark, who is a Native American member of the Maidu Indian Nation/Pitt River in Northern California, wrote that a year after her nephew's murder, a woman came to the delicatessen that she managed and mentioned that she was from Rancho Mirage. Clark noted that her nephew had been murdered there. As the conversation progressed, Clark said the woman told her, "Oh! I knew that the big Indian was going to be killed two weeks *before* he was killed."

The woman explained that her boyfriend's sister had been dating a "high roller" in Palm Springs who talked about the upcoming murder of the "big Indian." Clark provided the information to the California Attorney General's office, and was subsequently informed by investigators from the DOJ that the "high roller" was John Paul Nichols, Jr.

Clark said she flew to Riverside to testify before a Grand Jury, noting that it was about the same time that John Philip Nichols, Sr. was being charged with solicitation of murder of five other men. Clark wrote that "the Grand Jury failed to act on the evidence at hand – she was told later by a reliable source that there were too many big names involved, and the case was to be dropped. The case was then closed."

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In 1991 a series of events, including the death of Washington D.C. investigative journalist Danny Casolaro on August 10, brought the Cabazon-related triple homicide back into national scrutiny. Casolaro had been preparing to visit Indio to investigate the Cabazon/Wackenhut connections to a cabal of spooks, arms dealers, drugs and organized crime figures which he dubbed "The Octopus."

In July 1991, one month prior to Danny Casolaro's death, Anson Ng, a reporter for the *Financial Times* of London, was shot and killed in Guatemala, according to a 1991 *TC Technical Consultant* story. "He [Ng] had reportedly been trying to interview an American there named Jimmy Hughes, a one-time director of security for the Cabazon Indian Reservation secret projects."

A *San Francisco Chronicle* article entitled, "Tiny California Tribe's Huge Clout," dated September 4, 1991, best summarized the failure of the justice system at every level to unlock the mystery of Cabazon's forbidden secrets. Reporter Jonathan Littman mused:

"In all, federal and state agencies [have helped] to finance nearly \$250 million worth of projects on the 1,700-acre reservation. That is particularly impressive in light of the tribe's size – the entire Cabazon population numbers no more than 30.

To observers in and out of government, these undertakings pose an obvious question: How did a tiny band of Indians, one of the smallest in the nation, give rise to a multimillion-dollar

network whose influence reaches into all quarters of the U.S. government?

The answer lies in a maze of politicians, military officers, organized-crime figures, intelligence agents, foreign officials ranging from Saudi sheiks to Nicaraguan Contras – and John Philip Nichols, a globe-trotting evangelical social worker with an uncanny ability to win federal grants, who once served 18 months in state prison for solicitation to commit murder.

Although the full story of the Cabazon reservation is still unfolding, there are indications that this network reaches far beyond the borders of the tribe's land.



In early August 2008 Rachel Begley introduced me to Detective John Powers at the Riverside Sheriff's department. Powers had been working with Rachel on the Alvarez triple-homicide cold-case file since 2007, but the few remaining law enforcement people who had worked the case had dim memories of the details 28 years later.

I wanted to help John and Rachel if I could, but by then I had acquired so much information that it would require a book to explain it all to them. I didn't know where to begin, so I decided to send them a 77-page Matrix Link Analysis that I had compiled in 2000 for Kelly O'Meara which provided significant names in my manuscript and the linkages to each other, a name-base of sorts in alphabetical order. Along with the Matrix I sent a 10-page outline of all the corporate structures, joint ventures and operations that related to the individuals in the Matrix.

I then began sending them material from the RCMP investigation and Detective Sue Todd's findings during their joint 8-month probe of the Octopus in 2000. In particular I encouraged Detective Powers to get copies of the Paul Morasca Homicide Investigation File – Case No. 82-1052505 and the Di Giorgio Extradition File – Case No. CR89-0603 VRW, U.S. verses Di Giorgio. The Morasca file reportedly contained over a thousand pages dating back to the early 1980's and referenced the Alvarez murders.

The e-mails were flying back and forth for months, then one day, on October 20, 2008 I received an e-mail from Powers that he had traveled to San Francisco and obtained copies of the Paul Morasca file. He said, "Everything you said would be there was there," and he wanted copies of my notes or typewritten memorandums from



the Morasca file referencing a transcript of a conversation between Robert Booth Nichols (RBN) and Patrick Kenneally, the investigator at the Riverside District Attorney's office in the early 1980's at the time of the Alvarez murders.

I called Powers and read him a portion of my notes on the phone as follows: "A Riverside investigator named Patrick Kenneally [investigator for the Riverside D.A.'s office] spoke to Robert Booth Nichols. A transcript of the conversation indicated that Kenneally and Nichols jostled back and forth for a while, then Nichols asked Kenneally for a copy of the FBI report on himself. Kenneally refused. So RBN asked Kenneally what HE wanted? Kenneally said he wanted evidence against Dr. John Philip Nichols at the Cabazon Indian reservation in Indio. Shortly thereafter, Dr. Nichols was arrested and convicted on attempted murder and related charges."

In the transcript, it is clear that the conversation between RBN and Kenneally was recorded from a telephone call that RBN made to Kenneally. It begins with Kenneally answering the phone and RBN saying, "Hi Pat, how are you? Peter [Zokosky] said I should call you." The two men are very familiar with each other and you can tell from the conversation that they talk often. It is also clear that Kenneally had no idea he was being tape-recorded, though anyone who knew RBN knew he tape recorded all his calls, and his wife, Ellen, transcribed them.

Kenneally made unflattering comments about the FBI's investigation and said that he was ordered to turn everything he learned over to FBI Agent Rudy Valadez, whom he didn't trust. (Valadez worked with FBI agent Robert Barnes, who "handled" Philip Arthur Thompson and Michael Riconosciuto). This indicated that the FBI was not just assisting in the investigation, but took over control of the whole thing.

The typewritten transcript of this conversation was sent to Detective Ed Erdelatz in San Francisco, who worked the Paul Morasca homicide case, from the Sheriff's station in Indio, according to the original mailing envelope that contained the transcript. The postmark on the envelope was too faded to be read, but Dr. John Philip Nichols was arrested on January 16, 1985, just six months after that conversation took place.

On October 21, 2008, Detective Powers wrote that he would like to obtain copies of all my memorandums/notes on the Paul

Morasca homicide file. Powers said he believed that the document that Kenneally was offering RBN was the three-page FBI Report on RBN dated 12-02-82 that Zokosky showed Kelly O'Meara and me at our interview at his home in February 2001. Since Dr. Nichols was arrested within months of that phone call, it appeared that Kenneally gave the memo to RBN, who then provided a copy to his friend Zokosky, which I subsequently photographed at Zokosky's house. However, Zokosky had told Kelly and me that RBN obtained that FBI report from the DOJ.

Powers explained that the reason he was interested in the RBN/Kenneally phone conversation and *who recorded it* was because at that point, the FBI and DOJ had denied any knowledge of the Alvarez triple murder case to him. They claimed they didn't have a case file or any documentation that they were ever involved in the case.

Powers wrote: “ --- Now, this doesn't necessarily mean I'm being lied to, but it's possible the people I'm talking to on the telephone are not in a position to have access to this file. I simply haven't asked the right person yet. I have a ton of documentation to prove that the FBI and DOJ were both assisting us in this investigation. DOJ Agent Frank Brock conducted several interviews and I have two of his reports with a DOJ report number written at the top. DOJ has no record of that report number and Agent Brock died ten years ago, so he can't verify it for me.”

According to legend and rumor, Patrick Kenneally abruptly left the Riverside District Attorney's office and moved to another state at some point after that conversation with Robert Booth Nichols (RBN) took place. Reportedly, no one who had worked the Alvarez homicide case ever heard from him again. In 2008, John Powers located Kenneally and interviewed him, as did reporter Nathan Baca at KESQ-TV in Riverside County who was always breathing down Powers' neck.

Kenneally never knew that conversation with Robert Booth Nichols had been tape-recorded until Powers told him in 2009. Kenneally denied that the meeting with RBN and the exchange of documents ever took place. Maybe Zokosky was correct when he said RBN obtained the FBI report from the DOJ? (Nearly two years later, I learned from a former D.A. investigator and other sources who recently interviewed Kenneally that the motivating factor

behind his retirement and departure from Indio was because two men in suits had allegedly shown him photos of his children getting off the school bus).

I had sent Detective John Powers my notes on Kelly O'Meara's 2-14-01 interview with Peter Zokosky in which Zokosky had said that Jimmy Hughes came to him for help and Zokosky convinced Hughes to talk to authorities and had driven Hughes to the Riverside District Attorney's office to report what he knew about the Alvarez triple-homicide. On June 20, 1984, Hughes had met with Deputy Attorney General Sanford Feldman (Special Investigations Unit, California DOJ), Special Agent Frank E. Brock (Special Investigations Unit, California DOJ), Patrick Kenneally (investigator for the Riverside D.A.'s office), officers from the Fresno Police and several others, according to Peter Zokosky. Hughes had been given a polygraph at that time. (According to police reports, Gene Gilbert was not present at this meeting. In June of 1984 he was a Sergeant at the Indio Police Department. He subsequently became involved in the Alvarez triple-homicide case when he went to work at the D.A.'s office as an investigator.)

Detective Powers followed up with a visit to Zokosky's home in March 2009 and not only interviewed Zokosky for four hours, but obtained a 11" wide by 20" long bankers box labeled "Inslaw" containing some of Zokosky's accumulated documents over the years. A DOJ liaison that Powers worked intermittently with on the Alvarez case had accompanied Powers to the Zokosky interview. Zokosky had offered the box of documents to Powers and Powers agreed to borrow it to make copies and he would return it at a later date.

In speaking with a source close to the investigation, I learned that some old cassette tapes had been provided to Powers by Zokosky, one of which was the same tape that Zokosky had played for Kelly and me at our interview with him regarding the Morasca homicide in which Michael Riconosciuto had narrated his version of the events leading up to the death of Paul Morasca which involved a money laundering and drug operation in which the Fresno chapter of the Hells Angels were allegedly used.

Another tape recording contained the conversation between Patrick Kenneally and Robert Booth Nichols relative to the "exchange" of documents, i.e, the *transcript* that Powers had found in the Paul Morasca file from S.F.P.D. RBN had taped that phone

conversation on July 10, 1984, Ellen Nichols had transcribed it, and both had been given to Zokosky for safekeeping. Obviously Zokosky had provided that transcript to (name-withheld) who sent it to authorities in Indio, who then forwarded it to Detective Ed Erdelatz in San Francisco. (The initials "J.L" and a date at the top of the Kenneally/RBN transcript in the Morasca file had indicated who Zokosky gave the transcript to).

In communicating with John Powers about this turn of events, he commented, " --- thank God for Gene Gilbert and his foresight [in the 1980's] to make copies and send them to San Francisco to protect them." Powers suggested that portions of the RBN/Kenneally taped conversation might play a significant role in a future trial.

It is noteworthy that Paul Morasca was found dead (murdered) in his condo on January 14, 1982 by Detective Ed Erdelatz just six months after the Alvarez murders. Morasca had been appointed to become the manager of the new Cabazon Casino prior to his death. This might explain why so many of the Alvarez triple-homicide reports were included into the Paul Morasca file.

One report written by Gene Gilbert dated September 17, 1991, sent to the House Judiciary Committee on Inslaw, stated that the Cabazon Indians had computer access to law enforcement programs such as NCIC and NADDIS. Another section stated that "Wayne Reeder paid Jimmy Hughes between \$200,000 and \$250,000 to leave the area." Gilbert had told Kelly O'Meara that Peter Zokosky and Wayne Reeder were investors in the Cabazon Casino and a skeet range. But he said the Mob built the Casino for the Cabazons.

In a letter sent to Jimmy Hughes, dated April 13, 1982, Phyllis Riconosciuto, Michael's previous wife, had contracted with Hughes (and Steven Bates) to provide professional body-guard services for her husband, Michael, for the period of April 14, 15, and 16 to fly to Fresno, California to assist Michael to "get his affairs in order and to protect Michael during this period until he goes into protective custody with the FBI at the Oakland [California] office."

The letter noted that Michael Riconosciuto was to meet with FBI Special Agent Robert Barnes, and after Agent Barnes assumed protection for Riconosciuto, then Hughes and Bates could return to Palm Springs. The agreed upon flat fee for rendering this service

was \$1,300 including air fare, hotel costs and meals. The letter was signed by both Phyllis Riconosciuto and Jimmy Hughes.

This letter would indicate that Jimmy Hughes had either met or knew FBI agent Robert Barnes. According to Detective Sue Todd, who had interviewed Agent Barnes in 2000, he confirmed that he had been the "handler" for both Michael Riconosciuto and Philip Arthur Thompson in a large drug/sting operation in San Francisco (mentioned in the Di Giorgio file).

This letter was also written during the time (1982) that Michael Riconosciuto was involved with Dr. John Philip Nichols, administrator at the Cabazon Indian reservation, who was a partner at that time in the Cabazon/Wackenhut Joint Venture to develop weapons on the reservation with Robert Booth Nichols and Peter Zokosky.

The date on this letter to Jimmy Hughes (April 1982) also coincided with Riconosciuto's claim that he had worked undercover (on loan from the FBI) for Fresno prosecutor Brian Leighton who was instrumental in prosecuting 29 members of a drug/arms organization called "The Company." The Company had been written up in the *San Francisco Chronicle* on April 28, 1982 under the heading "Story of Spies, Stolen Arms and Drugs." According to reporter Bill Wallace, The Company consisted of (quote) "about 300 members, many of them former military men or ex-police officers with nearly \$30 million worth of assets, including planes, ships and real estate."

The article went on to say that "federal drug agents said the organization had imported billions of dollars worth of narcotics from Latin America, and was also involved in gunrunning and mercenary operations." Specialized military equipment consisting of nine infrared sniperscopes, a television camera for taking pictures in darkness, 1500 rounds of small arms tracer ammunition for night combat, a five-foot remote-control helicopter, and secret components from the radar unit of a Sidewinder guided missile had been stolen from the U.S. Naval Weapons Station at China Lake in the Mojave Desert.

Detective John Powers mentioned in an e-mail communication on November 27, 2009 that he had found a hand-written "Time Line" in Peter Zokosky's box of documents, created by Zokosky, which outlined a chronology of events beginning in 1981 and ending in 1985. This was the same document that I had provided to Rachel Begley months earlier which Zokosky had given me years ago.

Powers said the time-line was very helpful: "Peter used his wife's day-by-day calendar and wrote down all of the important dates that he could find. I now have the date that Wayne Reeder drove Jimmy to the airport so he could flee to Central America. I have the date that Peter accompanied Dr. Nichols to Canada for the Valleyfield meeting, which proves Nichols was out of the country during the Alvarez murders. There are some other very important dates that helped me to figure out when certain things happened," wrote Powers.

In looking at the Zokosky time-line in my file, I found that Zokosky and Nichols had traveled together to the Valleyfield meeting in Canada from June 22 to June 30, 1981. Another notation in Zokosky's time-line labeled, "The \$30,000 Caper," indicated that in May 1984 a large sum of cash in the amount of \$30,000 was withdrawn from the Bingo Palace 1<sup>st</sup> Trust Bank account.

In looking at Kelly O'Meara's notes from an interview with John Belton in Canada, who had been Detective Sue Todd and RCMP Sean McDade's mutual "source," I noticed a statement made by Belton regarding the trip to Canada by Dr. John Nichols and Peter Zokosky in which they were involved in the purchase of Valleyfield Chemical Corporation in Canada in May 1981. Belton had said, "*--- Dr. Nichols used people in Canada to make sure he had an alibi when the Alvarez people were murdered on Bob Hope Drive.*"

This was an interesting statement because the Canadian meetings were outlined in a Wackenhut Inter-Office Memorandum I had found in Michael Riconosciuto's files in the desert, dated May 25, 1981, from Robert Frye, a Vice President of Wackenhut in Indio, to Robert Chasen, a Vice President of Wackenhut in Coral Gables (and former Commissioner of U.S. Customs). A notation in the Wackenhut memorandum referred to the proposed purchase of Valleyfield Chemical Products Corporation in Valleyfield, Quebec, near Montreal, Canada.

Valleyfield had gone into receivership when its owner, Gerald Bull, was jailed in the United States for illegally shipping weapons to South Africa. (Bull had developed the original Project Babylon super rail gun for the Iraqi government and was reportedly assassinated by the Israeli Mossad in March 1990). The Canadian government took possession of Valleyfield and sold it to a consortium headed by Welland Chemicals Ltd. of Mississauga on April 7, 1981.

The Wackenhut memorandum outlined an interest to purchase Valleyfield Chemical by Dr. John Nichols with a Barry Zuckerman and Charles F. Agar, both Canadian citizens, who were involved in a Canadian firm called Mineral Resources International Limited, as well as both being involved in Canadian financial institutions.

“Dr. [John] Nichols envisions that the role of the Cabazon/Wackenhut Joint Venture should the Zuckerman-Agar group be successful in purchasing this plant, would be to serve as the foreign marketing representative for the plant; to have this group possibly finance the establishment of the casing/loading facility on the Cabazon reservation; and to have the capability to conduct R&D [Research and Development] for the group in the armament industry,” noted the memorandum.

A meeting had been set up in Ottawa, Canada at 9:00 A.M., May 26, 1981 involving Dr. John Philip Nichols, Frank Agar, F. Thornburg, A.R. Frye and members of the Canadian Munitions Board to discuss capital investment in the Valleyfield plant, according to the memorandum.

In Peter Zokosky's handwritten “time-line,” he noted a trip to Canada with Dr. John Nichols on June 22 through June 30, 1981. Directly next to that notation were the words in capital letters, “FRED KILLED.” Zokosky later explained that Dr. Nichols had stayed back in Canada, rather than return to California on June 30<sup>th</sup> with Zokosky. Nichols' excuse for staying in Canada was weak and made no sense to Zokosky at the time.

Fred Alvarez, Ralph Boger and Patti Castro were executed on June 29, 1981, so Dr. Nichols had an alibi for his whereabouts at the time of the murders.

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Over the years I had accumulated a file of documents pertaining to Jimmy Hughes' activities in the 1980's, which I subsequently provided to Rachel Begley and she presumably provided them to John Powers. Some of these documents provided a window into Hughes' alternating relationship with Dr. John Nichols, Wayne Reeder, and other individuals involved with the Cabazons at that time.

On April 4, 1983, John Paul Nichols, Dr. Nichols' son, who was by then the Cabazon Arms – Cabazon/Wackenhut Joint Venture “Project Manager,” wrote a letter to the Army Discharge

Review Board asking for Hughes' military record because he required security clearances to work in the Cabazon/Wackenhut Joint Venture.

Wrote Nichols: "Mr. James Hughes Jr. has been in our employment for over three years. He has been instrumental in developing our reservation security force as well as providing superior training in law enforcement techniques, safety and sundries to our employees. He was a key person in developing, organizing and security financing for a successful trap and skeet range on the Cabazon Indian reservation."

Nichols further wrote that Hughes had shown himself to be a man of superior qualities and unusual maturity for someone his age. In addition, Hughes was becoming more and more involved in the Joint Venture with Wackenhut Services and would soon become "involved in matters where a security clearance is necessary involving government contracts." Hughes' military record would have a direct bearing on whether he would qualify for the needed security clearances. Arthur Welmas, the Tribal Chairman, had also signed the letter on Hughes' behalf.

However, Hughes' career took a dive in 1984. By February 1984, Jimmy Hughes had left Nichols' employment and went to work for Wayne Reeder. By June 1984, Hughes had been terminated by Reeder and Reeder was suing him in a Riverside Superior Court Civil Action (Indio No. 41885) for allegedly threatening his life.

Hughes responded in a court document that he had simply been attempting to collect a debt owed to him by Reeder on September 13, 1984 at a meeting with Reeder and Peter Zokosky.

Hughes said in his court Declaration that the probable purpose for Reeder's injunctive relief against Hughes was to "*discredit and destroy my prospective testimony in criminal cases currently under investigation which are to be brought against a business associate of the plaintiff's [Dr. John Philip Nichols] and quite probably against the plaintiff himself should sufficient data be generated in the future to establish his knowing participation in these criminal activities* ---" On page six of his Declaration, Hughes said he expected to testify against Dr. Nichols in a court of law on charges against him of "conspiracy to commit murder."

Hughes outlined that he was employed at the Cabazon Indian Casino and Bingo Palace concurrently from approximately Febru-



ary 1980 through February 1984. "During this period of my employment by these two entities, Dr. John Philip Nichols alleged that they were, in part, fronts for United States government sanctioned covert military activities and arms shipments to Central and South America." " --- over a period of time I became aware of a series of activities by Dr. John Philip Nichols and other members of his family (who are also employed there) which made me realize that their activities were criminal (including issuing contracts to commit murder) and were not governmental in nature as Dr. Nichols had alleged---," he declared.

Hughes further stated that when he reached a full realization of what Dr. Nichols was involved in at the Cabazon Indian Casino and Bingo Palace, he severed his connection with them and accepted employment from Wayne Reeder, who through his corporation Bingo Pavilion, Inc. had made a \$230,000 investment in the Cabazon gambling enterprise. Reeder promised Hughes that he would set him up in a security business to be owned jointly by Reeder and Hughes, including a promise that he would secure contracts for the new company with the Indian Palms Country Club which was owned by Reeder.

Reeder had allegedly confided to Hughes that "Dr. Nichols and family were 'skimming' profits off the top of the gambling enterprise in order to avoid taxes and avoid making the contracted payments to Bingo Pavilion, Inc." owned by Reeder. Reeder asked Hughes to return to the Cabazon gambling operations at the reservation so he (Hughes) could monitor the gross receipts and report back to Reeder.

However, Hughes subsequently learned that Nichols and Reeder had made a deal in which Reeder would "get rid" of him (Hughes) so that he couldn't make Nichols' illegal activities known. An attached Exhibit B was written by John Paul Nichols (Dr. Nichols' son) to Wayne Reeder and his attorney reminding Reeder that he had made an agreement with the Nichols family that Jimmy Hughes "would be gone" sometime between May 12, 1984 and May 14, 1984, and that Hughes was going to open a security business somewhere. Arthur Welmas, Tribal Chairman, had reported to Nichols that Hughes was seen coming out of his apartment on May 17, and their (the Tribal Council) patience was wearing thin. John Paul Nichols concluded the letter by saying, "I suggest that you stick to your deal with the officers of Cabazon Bingo, Inc."

John Patrick McGuire had also worked for Wayne Reeder and provided a Declaration on Hughes' behalf. One paragraph in McGuire's Declaration noted that he had spoken with Reeder's lawyer, Clay Weed, on or about May 23, 1984 and Mr. Weed had said: "It's not in Mr. Reeder's interest to do anything about the Nichols's or their illegal activities at the Bingo operation because to do so would jeopardize Mr. Reeder's investment." (Reeder had allegedly invested \$230,000 in the Cabazon gambling enterprise at that time).

Hughes stated in his court Declaration that he remained in Reeder's employ until about June 1984, then Reeder terminated him at Nichols' insistence. Hughes had already initiated a series of contacts with various law enforcement agencies to report what he knew concerning Nichols' illegal activities, including solicitation of murder. Hughes said the day after he visited the Riverside District Attorney's office in April 1984, he received a death threat in the form of a gruesome photograph (in an envelope) attached to the windshield of his car. The photograph was provided as an Exhibit C.

On April 15, Hughes had been told by a friend that there was a "contract on his life." Shortly thereafter, Peter Zokosky received a phone call to the same effect. Hughes also discovered that a \$30,000 withdrawal had been made by John Paul Nichols from the Bingo Palace's account by check payable to cash at that same time.

Hughes stated that since that time, *the California Department of Justice had offered him participation in their Witness Protection Program due to the threats and his cooperation with them.* Reeder had terminated him in June 1984 and he had since moved to Los Angeles.

On September 13, 1984 Hughes had a meeting with Wayne Reeder and Peter Zokosky at Reeder's office at the Indian Palms Country Club. Hughes demanded that Reeder make good on his promises, but Reeder said that wasn't feasible anymore. Hughes pointed out that Dr. Nichols had placed a contract on his life, as well as Reeder's: " --- You know there are contracts on both of us. If I die, so will you." Wayne Reeder took that as a threat and sued Jimmy Hughes for allegedly threatening his life.

Hughes subsequently talked to Keith Carter, the *Indio Daily News* Managing Editor, about his dissatisfaction with the various law enforcement agencies he and Zokosky had provided information to during the past four months. "I'm not going to say anything

else to them,” he explained. “All they (the local and state law enforcement agencies) care about is their own jurisdiction. The case is too big for them to see the whole picture. They can’t handle it.” Hughes said that he had been in contact with federal officials in Washington D.C., who were interested in the case. “I’m not at liberty to say who I’m talking to, but it’s obvious the state of California needs help,” he said.

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Detective John Powers had the foresight in 2009 to scan and copy the entire Alvarez investigation and the entire Paul Morasca file onto the Sheriff Department’s main file server, back it up onto an external hard drive, and also copied to CD’s.

Jimmy Hughes was still in California as of June 1985, he was staying with Peter Zokosky and keeping a low profile. Hughes had testified against Dr. John Philip Nichols at a Grand Jury hearing in Riverside in May 1985, but subsequently moved to Guatemala and did not testify at Dr. Nichols’ trial in Indio.

Pat Kenneally, the investigator for the Riverside D.A., allegedly left Riverside unexpectedly. Some speculated that he left because the prosecutor working in the Riverside County District Attorney’s office at that time was Rod Pacheco, Jimmy Hughes’ cousin. Others speculated that it was because of Kenneally’s conversation with Robert Booth Nichols and/or a subsequent FBI probe of the matter. It is possible, looking at the time frames, that while Robert Booth Nichols was tape-recording his conversation with Kenneally on July 10, 1984, he (Nichols) was being wiretapped by the FBI!

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On February 27, 2009, Rachel Begley arrived at my home in California to make copies from eight boxes of documents that I had acquired during the past 18 years. (I had acquired more boxes after the RCMP investigation). During the eight days that she stayed at my home, she made thousands of copies of documents, including old Cabazon and Wackenhut documents dating back to the early 1980’s. We drove out to Bob Hope Drive in Rancho Mirage and she placed a flower at the site where her father had been murdered in 1981. The house had been bulldozed shortly after the murders, so the only thing that remained was an empty lot.

Less than a block away, at the northwest corner of Bob Hope Drive and Frank Sinatra Drive, was the “Sunnylands” winter estate of Walter Annenberg, a Reagan protégé. Annenberg had led a lavish lifestyle and Fred Alvarez could have observed it from his porch. Sunnylands had hosted gatherings with such notables as Frank Sinatra, Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, President Ronald Reagan and First Lady Nancy Reagan. The Reagans often celebrated New Year’s Eve with the Annenbergs, the Bloomingdales, and Edie and Lew Wasserman, chairman of MCA Corporation. Walter Annenberg subsequently gave his home located at 668 St. Cloud Road in Bel Air (Los Angeles) to the Reagans as a gift upon Ronald Reagan’s departure from the Presidency of the United States.

From there Rachel and I drove to the Cabazon Tribe’s Fantasy Springs Casino in Indio and had dinner at the Casino buffet while musing about the history of the Cabazons in the early 1980’s and the effect it had on her life.

Rachel has vivid memories of the last time she saw her father. Her thoughts are frozen in time to the week before his death, when she was 13 years old: “I was excited; my dad was coming to pick me up for a day out on the town. I sat, waiting impatiently for him to pull up. I loved when my dad would pick me up for days out. Today would be a little different though, Gail, my step-mom, wasn’t coming with him but this was okay, it would just be me and my dad together that day. I heard the loud roar of his Harley pull up and I ran out to greet him, soon, we were off to the mall.”

Rachel becomes stoic when she recalls the ice cream parlor. Her soulful blue eyes look inward to some private place when she talks about her father: “We went into an ice cream shop and he ordered two pistachios. I explained that I liked mint and he said, ‘You’ll like this, I promise. It’s green like the mint,’ so I acquiesced.

“When we sat down to eat our ice cream, dad said, ‘I have to talk to you about something.’ He sounded very serious. ‘Okay, what’s wrong?’ I asked. ‘I’m helping Fred stop some bad guys,’ he said as he took a bite of his ice cream. ‘What’s going on, dad?’ I asked. ‘There are some shady things going on down at the reservation. Fred and I are trying to stop it.’ I remember he studied my face closely, to see my reaction. ‘Don’t worry, we’ll be OK,’ he added, as if saying it would make it true.

“Fred Alvarez and my dad were best friends,” Rachel recalled. “I knew Fred as an uncle. He and my dad had partied together, rode their motorcycles together, and had done business together in the past. When my dad told me that they were trying to stop some bad things at the reservation, it came as no surprise. It didn’t cross my young mind, at the age of 13, that there was any real danger involved in what they were doing. Besides, my dad told me they would be okay. Looking back in retrospect, I realize that dad wasn’t sure at all that they would be okay. We finished our ice cream and began talking about how I was doing in school ---”

On March 2, Detective John Powers from the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department arrived at my home to meet with Rachel face-to-face and update her on the progress of his investigation. I was allowed to sit in on the meeting and take notes. Powers also allowed me to photograph him with Rachel for my book.

Powers was not at all what I had expected. He was young, good-looking, dressed in casual clothes and he had traveled to my home from Riverside on a motorcycle. His eyes smiled, his demeanor was relaxed and friendly, and he had a sense of quiet about him that I learned over time was a built-in patience and ability to listen carefully, even when you didn’t think he was listening. By contrast, his e-mails had been written scrupulously, as if he had considerable writing experience, and he was so detail-oriented that I guessed that was why he worked in the cold-case division of the homicide unit. In truth, he was one of the most intrepid investigators I had encountered in my experience, yet if you met him on the street you’d never guess he was a homicide detective. Rachel was devoted to him because he had worked so hard on her case.

Powers said he had requested an arrest warrant for Jimmy Hughes from Mike Murphy, the Deputy Attorney General, California Dept. of Justice, San Diego. The DOJ advised Powers that they would approve the arrest warrant for Jimmy Hughes, but they wanted Powers to arrest “all the suspects simultaneously.” They said when Powers was ready to perform all the arrests, then all the warrants would be released together.

Detective Powers related the names of the subjects that he had been investigating and interviewing. Much of the information that Powers provided at our meeting can’t be included here because it

would compromise the DOJ's case against Jimmy Hughes in the upcoming court trial, which is not anticipated to take place until at least two years from now, according to Detective Powers.

However, some of the key people that Powers interviewed were former Hells Angels bikers headquartered in San Diego at the time of the triple-homicide in 1981. It is noteworthy that at the time of the murders, both Fred Alvarez and Ralph Boger were also members of a biker club in the Riverside County area. Also of note, though Powers didn't mention this aspect, were Michael Riconosciuto's earlier claims that the Hells Angels were used by The Company for drug trafficking operations in Fresno. Riconosciuto had named the people involved in that operation in a letter to Dr. John Phillip Nichols when he was attempting to obtain security clearances for his participation in the Cabazon/Wackenhut Joint Venture, created in April 1981, less than three months *before* the Alvarez triple-homicide.

Detective John Powers was nearing the end of his two-year investigation. With the full support and backing of the Riverside County sheriff, he had examined thousands of old documents across the state, resurrected police reports from forgotten archives (which were not computerized 28 years ago), and interviewed dozens of hostile witnesses who feared to come forward in 1981. He'd done his job, he solved the case, but he had to involve a prosecuting agency in order to get an arrest warrant.

The Riverside D.A.'s Office had a conflict of interest with District Attorney Rod Pacheco, who was Jimmy Hughes' cousin, so Powers was forced to take the case to the California State Attorney General's Office to seek an arrest warrant and charges filed. This was the first time the DOJ had become involved in the case during Powers' two year investigation. They had no involvement in the investigation, only the prosecution. It was now up to the DOJ to bring justice to the victims and their families, as well as closure to the dozens of investigators who worked the case during the past 28 years.

Three months later the warrant still hadn't been issued on Jimmy Hughes. On June 22, 2009, Rachel Begley called the California Attorney General's office to learn the status of the arrest warrants. She had learned that FGBMFI [Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International] of which Jimmy Hughes was a high-standing member, would be holding a convention in Florida during the upcoming

4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. She believed Hughes would be attending this convention and she wanted the arrest warrant implemented before Hughes departed Florida and returned to Honduras.

With no positive response from the DOJ, Rachel launched a desperate campaign with media, Internet websites, and political figures, including California Attorney General Jerry Brown, to motivate the DOJ to move forward with the warrant immediately. Rachel's campaign, along with some prodding from John Powers, got the ball rolling on the warrant. However, it turned out that Jimmy Hughes never attended the FGBMFI conference in Florida after all. Possibly because his friends in the military and FGBMFI co-member, Gen. Daniel López Carballo, were busy designing a coup that very same weekend in Honduras. Jimmy Hughes Ministries (FGBMFI) is located in the village of Zambrano, north of Tegucigalpa, where Hughes ministered to the military and trained military personnel as well.

On June 28, 2009, the president of Honduras, Manuel Zelaya, was roused from his home in Tegucigalpa and exiled at gunpoint to Costa Rica. The *Wall Street Journal* reported on June 29 in an article titled, "Coup Rocks Honduras" by Paul Kiernan, Jose De Cordoba and Jay Solomon, <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124619401378065339.html>, that Honduras's Supreme Court gave the order for the military to detain the president. Later, Honduras's Congress formally removed Mr. Zelaya from the presidency and named congressional leader Roberto Micheletti as his successor until the end of Mr. Zelaya's term in January.

Mr. Zelaya called the action a kidnapping, and said he was still president. The U.S. and other countries condemned the coup. President Barack Obama said he was "deeply concerned" and called on all political actors in Honduras to "respect democratic norms." Venezuela President Hugo Chávez, a close ally of Mr. Zelaya and nemesis of the U.S., said he would consider it an "act of war" if there were hostilities against his diplomats. "I have put the armed forces of Venezuela on alert," Mr. Chávez said.

"Retired Honduran Gen. Daniel López Carballo justified the move against the president, telling CNN that if the military hadn't acted, Mr. Chávez would eventually be running Honduras by proxy ---." President Chávez had close ties to Iran and reportedly offered to commit his Venezuelan troops to Iran if war broke out between Iran and the United States.

General Daniel Carballo was named in a Spanish publication, *Publico.es*, as being the “designer of the military strategy of the coup d’etat.” This is an excerpt from *Publico.es* (translated from Spanish to English)

Title: “Micheletti Purges the Police of the Still Loyal Controls to Zelaya.” 7-21-09.

“ --- In the new regime there are people in charge of tortures and disappearances. Behind the changes of the last days, it is the hand of Billy Amendo Jewel and Daniel Lopez Carballo, *both men who designed the military strategy of the coup d’etat* of the 28 of June [2009].” [http://babelfish.yahoo.com/translate\\_url?doit=done&tt=url&intl=1&fr=bf-home&trurl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.publico.es%2Finternacional%2F240159%2F&lp=es\\_en&btnTrUrl=Translate](http://babelfish.yahoo.com/translate_url?doit=done&tt=url&intl=1&fr=bf-home&trurl=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.publico.es%2Finternacional%2F240159%2F&lp=es_en&btnTrUrl=Translate)

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Finally, on September 26, 2009 self-described Mafia hit-man James “Jimmy” Hughes, 52, was arrested as he boarded a plane destined for Honduras at Miami-Dade International Airport. The fugitive warrant from the California DOJ listed three counts of murder and conspiracy to commit a crime for the 1981 execution-style murder of Cabazon Tribal Council Vice-Chairman Fred Alvarez, his friend Ralph Boger, and Patricia Castro in Rancho Mirage, California.

Detective John Powers at the Riverside County Sheriff’s Department in California, Central Homicide Unit – Cold Case Division, was officially present at the arrest scene to confirm Hughes’ identity. He’d been notified the day before by authorities in Miami that Jimmy Hughes was in the U.S. and preparing to depart for Honduras.

Media reports were confused or misleading about the details of the arrest. This is how it went down according to John Powers: Powers flew to Miami and subsequently met authorities at the airport. He went to the gate where the passengers were boarding the plane and quickly scanned the crowd for Jimmy Hughes. He was the only person who could pick Hughes out of the crowd, so the other officers awaited his signal.

When Powers motioned to the other officers that Hughes was not in the crowd, two Customs Officers boarded the plane and located Hughes’ assigned seat. They found Hughes on the plane with his wife and after identifying him by his passport, took him into



custody. Two uniformed Customs Officers escorted Hughes off the plane in handcuffs. When they came down the ramp, Det. Powers confirmed they had the right man.

Three agencies assisted Powers with the arrest. US Customs and Border Protection were the primary agency making the arrest. They processed Hughes in their facility at the airport and then turned custody over to Miami-Dade County Police Department - Airport District. The police department took custody of Hughes on the warrant and booked him into the County Jail located at 1321 N.W. 12th Street in Miami. An officer with Department of Homeland Security / I.C.E was also present and provided some assistance.

Although Powers was there, he was not the arresting officer because he didn't have jurisdiction in Miami. His purpose for being there was to make sure Hughes did not slip through their fingers and make it out of the country. Powers was the only person who could identify Hughes on site and he provided photographs of Hughes to the other officers. Powers also wanted to attempt an interview with Hughes once he was arrested but Hughes invoked his Miranda rights and refused an interview. Powers also was hopeful that Hughes would waive extradition so he could bring him back to California, but Hughes chose to fight extradition.

One of the arresting officers who assisted Powers and wrote the report was CBP (Customs Border Patrol) Officer Dale Munson. One of the two Miami-Dade Police Officers who assisted was Detective Richard Wilkinson. Both were uniformed officers assigned to the Airport District.

Powers was forced to obtain a Governor's Warrant to have Jimmy Hughes brought back to California. He filed a Felony Complaint for Extradition in Indio Court on October 1, 2009, case number INF-066719. The California State Attorney General is prosecuting the case because the current Riverside County district attorney, Rod Pacheco, is a second cousin of the defendant.

Hughes had reportedly left Riverside County in 1984, stayed with Peter Zokosky for a while in 1985, lived in Los Angeles for a while, visited his mother in Guatemala, then joined FGBMFI in 1987 and subsequently founded Jimmy Hughes Ministries – Free the Oppressed in Honduras.

Inexplicably, at the FGBMFI website Hughes admitted he was a Mafia hit-man before he found God: <http://www.fgbmfivoice.com/stories/996hughes.htm>

An excerpt reads as follows:

*--- After a six-year hitch in the military, I became a professional hit man for the Mafia. I collected money, hurt a lot of people and saw a lot of blood. I know what it's like to cut the throat of a man, see a man die, or throw a man in the trunk of a car and take him to his death. I did many horrible things. I allowed myself to do whatever was necessary.*

One day I had a contract on a man. They had paid me a lot of money to kill this person. I travelled over many states, and walked into the man's house one day, pulled out my pistol, and put a bullet in everybody's head.

There were many people there that day because he was having a party. As I stood there with the gun in my hand, I suddenly realized that all those people were dead. They had died instantly. I had been paid to kill one man, but had killed half a dozen people. The rest had just been in the wrong place at the wrong time ---

Nineteen months *before* Jimmy Hughes' arrest, Rachel had confronted Hughes at a FGBMFI dinner event on February 22, 2008 at the Banker's Ball Room – Fresno Fulton Mall in California. The billing for the event advertised "World Renowned Evangelist Jimmy Hughes of Honduras" and "Former Commanding General Daniel Lopez Carballo of Honduras" as the keynote speakers. <http://fgbmf-fi-sjvc.org/FGBMFI-Fresno-Flier.pdf>

Rachel walked up to Jimmy Hughes, with General Carballo present, and introduced herself as the daughter of Ralph Boger. She was accompanied by Fred Alvarez's son, Mikel Alvarez. She said to Hughes, "You were the 'bagman' in our father's murder. I'd like to talk to you about that." She wanted Hughes to say he was sorry for the murder of her father, Fred Alvarez and Patti Castro, but he didn't.

Hughes refused to speak to her at first, but returned when he saw her crying. He didn't want to talk about his past.

I have nothing to say about that. Can't say anything about that.

Nevertheless he confided,

Your parents got killed in a Mafia hit. That's life. That's what happened.

Hughes added:

--- I don't care about my past. My past is my past. It's none of your business. It's nobody's business. I don't care who died. I don't care who got killed. I was trained in the military. I killed people all over the world, right or wrong, because the government ordered me to. Your dad and I were friends. He touched somebody --- they gave an order and that's what happened to him. It's a lot bigger than the murder of this guy or the murder of that guy. It's big --- you're talking political people ---

Hughes was apparently unaware that Rachel had her camcorder turned on and everything he said was recorded. The recording can be viewed at her website: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eyjVd10w59I>

After viewing the video, I dubbed Rachel "Danger Girl," which she scoffs at, but which aptly describes her Indian/Irish fearlessness and hard-headed disregard for her own mortality. Despite that, she emanates a kind of mother-earth kindness and depth that charms everyone who meets her. Throughout the 16 months that I observed, up-close, her relentless pursuit of the killers of her father, and indeed, other related criminal types who regularly monitored her website, some of whom issued threats, I wondered when I awakened in the morning if my friend Rachel would still be in this world, or in the next realm of the happy hunting grounds?

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After Jimmy Hughes' arrest, Rachel Begley was besieged with media requests for interviews, as was John Powers. John generally deferred the media to Rachel, so her story became widely known to the *Los Angeles Times*, Associated Press, NBC News, *Good Morning America*, and some local media such as KESQ-TV in Palm Desert and The Desert Sun newspaper which covered the area where the triple homicide occurred. Rachel was approached by television producers (*Dateline* and the Lifetime channel) for the story of her life, a la Erin Brockovich-style, and last known, she was trying to negotiate with a big-screen film promoter without a Literary Agent to represent her. Oddly, the agents she had approached didn't take the time to respond to her queries.

In addition, the news stories left out one of the most significant contributions that Rachel made to the investigation, which was her extraordinary computer expertise. John Powers once wrote that her ability was “awesome,” he had grown to appreciate her tracking skills. On more than one occasion I had asked her to locate individuals that I needed to interview (which I had already spent hours trying to locate on the Internet), and within minutes she provided their home, work and e-mail addresses, including phone numbers. She could even send a satellite photo of what their house looked like.

During her investigation, *before* Jimmy Hughes’ arrest, Rachel’s website at Desertfae.com attracted observers from all points of the spectrum. She has a large family which keeps her busy during the day, but late at night we communicated back and forth and I was astonished at what she was able to track through her website. The Department of Justice had visited on numerous occasions, members of the Cabazon tribe and related casino people, known members of organized crime, police departments, friends of Jimmy Hughes, including Hughes himself, the Federal Reserve Bank, attorney’s for people being investigated, the Saudi government, multiple military bases, various state government offices (CA, NV, AZ, NY) along with a variety of reporters and other interested folks who spent hours surfing through her documents and videos.

In mid-October, after Jimmy Hughes’ arrest, Rachel began receiving threats from people who seemed to have been close to Hughes or were members of his organization in Honduras. However, a side benefit of the substantial news coverage came in the form of an e-mail from a Honduran source who revealed that Hughes was a close friend and “asesor” (Spanish for “advisor”) of Romeo Vásquez Velásquez, who was allegedly also a member of FGBMFI. The source added that Jimmy Hughes had assisted with the planning of the Honduras coup.

It was true, according to news accounts, that the interim de-facto president of Honduras, Roberto Micheletti, had been placed in office by coup leaders General Romeo Vásquez Velásquez and General Daniel Lopez Carballo, both friends of “hit-man” Jimmy Hughes, and at least two of these men, possibly all three, were in fact members of FGBMFI. Both of the above Honduran generals had also been trained at the School of the Americas. <http://soaw.org/pressrelease.php?id=144>

An Internet search of Velásquez produced a Wikipedia site that said Romeo Vásquez Velásquez was a Brigadier General and head of the armed forces of Honduras who was sacked by President Manuel Zelaya on June 25, 2009 for refusing to allow the armed forces to help in conducting an referendum on a constitutional change proposed by President Zelaya. "He attended the School of the Americas (SOA/WHINSEC) at least twice, in 1976 and 1984 and expands the number of SOA/WHINSEC graduates who have overthrown heads of state." [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romeo\\_V%C3%A1squez\\_Vel%C3%A1squez](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romeo_V%C3%A1squez_Vel%C3%A1squez)

In looking up "School of the Americas," I came upon the following: The School of the Americas (SOA), in 2001 renamed the "Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation," is a combat training school for Latin American soldiers, located at Fort Benning, Georgia. Initially established in Panama in 1946, it was kicked out of that country in 1984 under the terms of the Panama Canal Treaty. Former Panamanian President, Jorge Illueca, stated that the School of the Americas was the "biggest base for destabilization in Latin America." The SOA, frequently dubbed the "School of Assassins," has left a trail of blood and suffering in every country where its graduates have returned.

Over its 59 years, the SOA has trained over 60,000 Latin American soldiers in counterinsurgency techniques, sniper training, commando and psychological warfare, military intelligence and interrogation tactics. These graduates have consistently used their skills to wage a war against their own people. Among those targeted by SOA graduates are educators, union organizers, religious workers, student leaders, and others who work for the rights of the poor. Hundreds of thousands of Latin Americans have been tortured, raped, assassinated, "disappeared," massacred, and forced into refugee by those trained at the School of Assassins. <http://www.soaw.org/type.php?type=8>

As noted earlier, former Commanding General Daniel Lopez Carballo of Honduras, a member of FGBMFI and keynote speaker with Jimmy Hughes that day in February 2008, was subsequently written up in a Spanish speaking newspaper as the "*designer of the military strategy of the coup*" that took place in Honduras in June 2009.

From the Honduran military's point of view, the U.S. had a stake in the coup as well. Retired General Daniel López Carballo told

CNN that the coup was warranted because “Venezuelan President Chávez would be running Honduras by proxy if the military had not acted.” The ousted president of Honduras, Manuel Zelaya, had been in the process of forming a friendship or alliance with Venezuelan president Hugo Chávez, who according to news reports, had already formed an alliance with Iran and offered military support to Iran in the event that Iran went to war with the U.S.

The U.S. operates an airbase in Honduras (see The Soto Cano Air Base below) which it is continuing to expand with major upgrades in 2009. The infrastructure of the Soto Cano Air Base is such that the Honduran Constitution does not permit a permanent foreign presence in Honduras. A “handshake” agreement between the United States and Honduras allows the U.S. military’s Joint Task Force (JTF-Bravo) to remain in Honduras on a “semi-permanent” basis. This agreement, an annex to the 1954 military assistance agreement between the United States and Honduras, can be abrogated with little notice.

If president Zelaya had sided with Hugo Chávez militarily, then the U.S. could have lost that airbase in Honduras. (Oliver North once used this air base as a base of operations for the U.S. backed Contras in the 1980s).

The Soto Cano Air Base (commonly known as Palmerola Air Base) is a joint Honduras and United States military base near Comayagua in Honduras, about 60 miles (97 km) from the Honduran capital of Tegucigalpa. A large concentration of U.S. troops and the Honduran Air Force academy use the airbase. The airbase became operational in 1981. Now the U.S. military uses Soto Cano as a launching point for its war on drugs efforts in Central America as well as humanitarian aid missions throughout Honduras and Central America.

In addition, the US military’s Joint Task Force Bravo (JTF-B) is headquartered at Soto Cano. JTF-B consists of Medical Element – Military Hospital, Army Forces, Air Force Forces, Joint Security Forces, and the 1st Battalion-228th Aviation Regiment (consisting of some 18 aircraft, a mix of UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and CH-47 Chinook helicopters). [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soto\\_Cano\\_Air\\_Base](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soto_Cano_Air_Base)

The influential Full Gospel Business Men’s Fellowship International (FGBMFI) has a history all its own. Prominent right-wing

activists, such as Joseph Coors (Heritage Foundation) and Sanford McDonnell (McDonnell Douglas Corporation) were members of FGBMFI. Former President Ronald Reagan had close ties with FGBMFI. In 1970, five FGBMFI members, including Pat and Shirley Boone, Harold Bredesen, and George Otis, prayed with then-California Governor Reagan at his home in Sacramento. Otis, a former Lear executive, was overcome with the Spirit and began to speak in the voice of God. He compared Reagan to a king, and prophesied that Reagan would “reside at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue” if he continued to walk in God’s way. Reagan reportedly took the prophecy very seriously. A Reagan Aide who later worked on Pat Robertson’s presidential campaign, invited Nita Scoggan, the wife of a FGBMFI member, to form a prayer group in the White House. Reportedly, Col. Oliver North attended the prayer meetings. [http://www.cephas-library.com/church\\_n\\_state/church\\_n\\_state\\_profiles\\_of\\_u.s.private.gov\\_organizations\\_and\\_churches.html](http://www.cephas-library.com/church_n_state/church_n_state_profiles_of_u.s.private.gov_organizations_and_churches.html)

The strong FGBMFI military connections had a wide-ranging effect on foreign policy in Central America under the Reagan administration. Since 1964, FGBMFI had held regular military prayer meetings in the Washington D.C. area. At one point there were three chapters there, including one in the Navy Officers’ Club, and the Secretary of Defense even arranged to have two prayer rooms built in the Pentagon. A 1986 FGBMFI brochure listed over a dozen military names, a few of which were the Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, the Chief of Naval Operations, the Chief of Staff of the Army, and the Chief of Staff of the Air Force.

In Central America, President Reagan supported General Ríos Montt, a Pentecostal “true believer,” who became president of Guatemala in an army coup in March 1982, and was aided and supported by Full Gospel businessman John Carrette, a former Army Ranger in Vietnam and vocal supporter of Rios Montt. According to Carrette, the then presidents of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras were all Full Gospel.

Carrette later became the Executive Vice President of FGBMFI and helped set up Jimmy Hughes in Honduras. Hughes, also a former Army Ranger, wrote at his FGBMFI website that Carrette flew from Guatemala to meet him in Los Angeles. “ --- In 1987, John Carrette ‘god-fathered’ me into the Full Gospel Business Men’s

Fellowship, and I have been in the Fellowship ever since. I live in Honduras. I have a wife and two children, and we have a ministry called 'Free the Oppressed' ----." <http://www.fgbmfivoice.com/stories/996hughes.htm>

Ríos Montt's ties to the United States military went back to 1950 when he graduated as a cadet at the School of the Americas in the Panama Canal Zone, which at that time educated students in counterinsurgency tactics for the purpose of combating potential "communist" influence in the region. The FGBMFI fellowship entered Guatemala in 1952; its directors were leading businessmen, media people and military officers, including a former minister of defense.

By 1982 General Ríos Montt was best known outside Guatemala for heading a military regime (1982–1983) that was involved in some of the worst atrocities of Guatemala's 36-year civil war. Given Ríos Montt's staunch anticommunism and ties to the United States, the Reagan administration continued to support the general and his regime, paying a visit to Guatemala City in December 1982. During a meeting with Ríos Montt on December 4, Reagan declared: "President Ríos Montt is a man of great personal integrity and commitment. ... I know he wants to improve the quality of life for all Guatemalans and to promote social justice."

Reagan later agreed, in January 1983, to sell Guatemala millions of dollars worth of helicopter spare parts, a decision that did not require approval from Congress. In turn, Guatemala was eager to resurrect the Central American Defense Council, defunct since 1969, in order to join forces with the right-wing governments of El Salvador and Honduras in retaliations against the leftist Sandinista government of Nicaragua. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Efra%C3%ADn\\_R%C3%ADos\\_Montt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Efra%C3%ADn_R%C3%ADos_Montt).

But Ríos Montt's extreme version of Christian fundamentalism was hurtling out of control, even by Guatemalan standards. In August 1983, Gen. Oscar Mejía Victores seized power in another coup. In 1984 retired General Montt spoke at a FGBMFI world convention, and Ronald Reagan succeeded in pressuring Congress to approve \$300,000 in military training for the Guatemalan army.





In a Spanish article from the Honduran newspaper *La Prensa*, Hughes openly discussed his bloody past. It was an astounding story. Clearly he felt well insulated in Central America, given his ties to military generals and the powerful FGBMFI in that area of the world. It appears that most of the quotes in the *La Prensa* article were derived from a *Vertice, Newspaper of Today* (El Salvador) article published on July 6, 2003.

Title: “*Jimmy Hughes – From CIA operative and mafia hitman to evangelical pastor,*” by Jessica Figeroa. (Translated from Spanish to English below).

From *La Prensa* in Honduras – 10/5/09: (excerpted)

Talking about his dark past was always part of his testimony as a conference speaker. Despite the new life that he found in God, he yet seems to have unsettled scores with justice. Things caught up with him 28 years later.

The Rev. Jimmy Hughes is the founder of the ‘Gateway of Hope’ (Puerta de Esperanza) Rehabilitation Center, which rescues youth gang members in Honduras, and is also president of “Free The Oppressed Ministries,” established in Zambrano.

He was arrested last Saturday at the Miami International Airport as he prepared to travel to Honduras.

He is accused of being involved in the ‘Octopus Murders’ that occurred in 1981 in California.

The victims of an execution-style shot to the head were: Fred Alvarez, 32, Patty Castro, 44, and Ralph Boger, 42, according to the Riverside County Sheriff, Dennis Gutierrez. Hughes had arrest warrants.

### **The CIA trained him, the FBI protected him**

The Salvadorian newspaper *El Diario de Hoy* published on July 6 of 2003, an interview with Hughes, in which he described his life before joining the ranks of the CIA. He also mentions how he ended up being an elite military-trained hitman for the Mafia, ‘until God rescued him.’

### **Excerpts from Jimmy Hughes 2003 interview:**

*The end of the Vietnam War in 1973 marked the beginning of my military career. My instructors and teachers were American fighters who survived operations against the Vietcong. I was 17 years old and aspired to climb the ladder in the military.*

*I enrolled in each course no matter how hard it was. I attended schools in parachuting, scuba diving, escape and rescue operations, as a prisoner of war, resistance and survival in jungle, sea and desert environments. I specialized in plastic explosives and as a sniper. In six years, the military training that I received, including the Rangers and Delta Force, transformed me into an elite soldier.*

*At the age of 23, I began working for the CIA in covert missions outside the United States. In Asian countries, Europe and South America, I fought to defend the rights of others. I helped people who wanted to be free and to fight dictators. The US Army did not train me to be a cold-blooded killer, but to defend my country and the enemies of democracy and freedom.*

*After several secret missions, I left the CIA, and four years later (1984), I left the Army and went to live a quiet life in California, never imagining that my bloodiest were yet to come.*

### **Collecting tributes**

*While serving in the military, I had an Italian friend who often spoke to me about a 'Padrino' (Godfather), and I never paid much attention; I thought those were just things you see in the movies.*

*My first job in the mob was collecting money from those who did not pay their bills, and that included broken legs, arms and heads with baseball bats.*

*Although the Army I had already gotten a taste of what it was like to kill, with the mob, I offered my talent for gifts or money. I would murder someone for five, ten, twenty, thirty, forty thousand dollars. The most I got paid for killing somebody was fifty thousand dollars, because it was professionally done. This was how at age 27, I sold myself to evil.*

*I became the confidant of the Godfather, who was in the business of casinos. I was the bodyguard for his children. I became a famous hitman for the mafia; everybody in the United States asked for Jimmy Hughes.*

*By that time I was addicted to cocaine. I loved cocaine. I had a terrible addiction; I would always carry the drug in my pockets. I drank hard liquor all day. I always had terrible nightmares because I had shed enough blood to fill a pool.*

### **Free Death**

*One day, the Godfather called me and gave me an order to kill a suspect for thirty thousand dollars. To my surprise, I knew this*

*guy; we used to be friends. But in the mafia, 'business is business.' When I arrived at the guy's home, I was no longer a normal person; I had been exposed to so much violence that I had become a demon. I said hi to the guy and went into his house.*

*He never imagined that he had just opened the door to death. But inside the mansion, there were five other people who were drinking and snorting cocaine. I thought, 'I must get this done for the \$30,000 that I was being paid;' however, I did not know who the other five were. Then I thought to myself that I would do a service to society by doing them all. The other five would be added to the contract... for free.*

*The night began to fall and when I took my gun out, no one noticed it because they were too drugged and drunk. They were all talking nonsense, so I began: "Bang, bang, bang..."*

*Everyone around me was dead within seconds; no one moved. They were totally unprepared; no one was expecting to die. I had shot all of them in the head. But right after it all happened, and as I was still holding the gun in my hand, between a pool of blood, I would see shattered face of the man that I was paid to kill, and it would feel as though I would see my reflection in a mirror.*

*The hairs in the back of my neck stood up as I saw my own bloody image. At the same time, I began to hear a voice say, "Jimmy: You know that I love you and I forgive you." I said to myself: "Oh God, I'm either going crazy or I did too many drugs and I had killed so many people in my life."*

*In that horrific scene, I somewhat laughed, but then big chills came down my spine.*

*My heart almost stopped. Then I heard the same voice again: "Jimmy: You know that I love you and I forgive you." Then, I ran out of the place, leaving half a dozen dead for thirty thousand dollars.*

*Trapped in the solitude of my home, I took the phone and decided to call my mother, who was as a Christian missionary in Guatemala.*

*"Listen," I said to her, "I do not know if the FBI is going to catch me or if I should turn myself in. I don't know if I'm going to go to jail or if the mafia is going to kill me, but I want you to pray for me. I will not die or go to jail without setting things right with God."*

*She prayed intensely for me over the telephone line from Guatemala, with me in California, and God in heaven. It was*

*then when I first experienced the immense power of prayer, a power greater than any weapon ever held in my hands.*

### **From the mafia to the FBI**

*The next day, I went to see the Godfather and told him I wanted to quit, and that I would never kill anyone anymore and wanted to be alone.*

*He looked like he was seeing a mad man. He paid me the \$30,000, but immediately said: "Jimmy, you know the rules, you know you're putting your own life in danger."*

*I replied: "Yes, I know, but if something happens, we all die." The FBI, the Justice Department and the Police had already been after me. They wanted to pick my brain to see how much information they could get about the mafia. But they had no evidence against me; I was a professional and never left a fingerprint at the crime scenes. I was proud of that. I was very careful with that, because of my training, I was very professional.*

*When they realized that there was no evidence against me to take me to court, I went into the Witness Protection Program of the FBI in exchange for giving the authorities some information.*

*I then devoted myself to God; I studied theology and graduated as a reverend and now, I serve the mafia of good, led by the Godfather of salvation and eternal life, Jesus Christ.*

### **Projects in Honduras**

Jimmy Hughes Ministries operates in Zambrano (Honduras) through his foundation Free the Oppressed, which in Spanish is called 'Ministerio Liberen a los Oprimidos.'

Other organizations include:

- The Prince of Peace Children's Home.
- The Rainbow House.
- Casa Santiago catering services for missionary teams.
- Gateway of Hope Rehabilitation Center for Young People.

All of these centers are located in the village of Zambrano, north of Tegucigalpa, where he lived with his family.

Link to original article in Spanish ---

<http://www.laprensahn.com/Sucesos/Ediciones/2009/10/05/Noticias/De-maton-de-mafia-italiana-a-pastor-evangelico>

Can also be read at this website (in English) ---

<http://deadlinelive.info/2009/10/05/jimmy-hughes-%E2%80%93-from-cia-operative-and-mafia-hitman-to-evangelical-pastor-2/>



So this is what Rachel Begley and Detective John Powers were up against when they chased an Octopus assassin through the labyrinth and brought him to justice 28 years after the fact. The angels had answered their prayers.

Reporter Nathan Baca at KESQ-TV, News Channel 3, won a regional Emmy for his 35-part series entitled "The Octopus Murders." From the podium at the San Diego Hilton as he accepted his Emmy Award, Nathan Baca announced: (excerpted)

I do this in memory of murder victims Ralph Boger, Fred Alvarez and Patti Castro. I hope and pray that justice, a justice that has been delayed for far too many years, will soon be had by the families of these victims. Thank you.

One of the former Hells Angels that Det. Powers named during our meeting on March 2nd was subsequently identified on October 1st in a KESQ-TV news story entitled "Founder of Coachella Valley Judo Named in Murder Conspiracy" by Nathan Baca, News Channel 3 reporter. <http://www.kesq.com/Global/story.asp?s=11241586>

Excerpts from the story read as follows:

RIVERSIDE – Glen Heggstad is a well-respected local businessman. He founded Coachella Valley Judo and Jiu-Jitsu in Palm Desert. Now, the California Attorney General's Office is accusing Heggstad of conspiring to murder Cabazon Indian vice chairman Fred Alvarez.

Alvarez was murdered at a Rancho Mirage home on July 1st, 1981. His friend, Ralph Boger, and Alvarez's girlfriend, Patty Castro, also died.

The state Attorney General's office says former Cabazon Indian security chief Jimmy Hughes offered to hire Heggstad to murder Alvarez.

Fred Alvarez was going to blow the whistle on illegal weapons manufacturing deals signed off by Cabazon tribal leadership.

It was Jimmy Hughes, arrested Saturday in Miami, who actually pulled the trigger, according to detectives. Hughes was on his way to Honduras where he runs Jimmy Hughes Ministries.

Investigators believe Heggstad knew about the murder plot but did nothing to stop it.

News Channel 3 talked to Glen Heggstad on the phone Monday night before he was accused of murder conspiracy. He claimed he cooperated with detectives, telling them Hughes told him that he had murdered Alvarez. Heggstad also claimed he had nothing to do with the plot to kill three people.

The National Geographic Channel aired a segment last year on his 2001 escape from Colombia. Rebels took Heggstad hostage and tortured him during a cross-continent motorcycle ride.

Heggstad claims to be a former Hells Angel. Though he's accused of murder conspiracy, Glen Heggstad is not under arrest for any crime at this time.

News Channel 3 tried repeatedly Thursday to reach Heggstad on the phone and in person. He did not return calls.

This information comes from the felony complaint filed at Larson Justice Center in Indio Thursday morning. The warrant affidavit written by Riverside County Sheriff's detectives is currently sealed at the Riverside Courthouse ---“.

Heggstad subsequently provided a book he had written to reporter Nathan Baca. Inside the cover page, he autographed the book with the following notation:

“Nathan: If you are seeking to report the truth, please remember that there are two sides to every story. Just because a cop or prosecutor says something, doesn't make it true. You are going to be very surprised when you finally hear what I have to say. In the meantime, given the track record for integrity in the police dept. and prosecutor's office, I ask that in the interest of justice, that you keep an open mind. All the Best, Glen Heggstad. 11-17-09.

Heggstad was in fact a Hells Angel biker in San Diego at the time of the murders. He operated a Martial Arts Do Jo in Palm Desert, California and in the intervening years he lived in a luxury condo in Mazatlan and worked for *National Geographic* magazine. At a website: <http://www.lukeswab.com/2009/03/wwwstrikingvikingnet/> “Luke,” a friend of Heggstad's, wrote the following:

“I meet up with a guy named Glen Heggstad. He is a well known adventure rider who wrote the book *Two Wheels Through Terror*. He is working on his second book right now. Long story short, he was captured by Colombian Rebels on a ride from California to Tierra Del Fuego. His first book is about that experience and how

he got out as well as the rest of the ride. It is an amazing read. It was a privilege to be able to stay with him for a few days and talk about travel. You can check out his site at: [www.strikingviking.net](http://www.strikingviking.net)

Staying at Striking Vikings pad was a treat. It was a welcome change from sleeping next to the ants, roaches, coyotes and cow pies. I am glad I got a lead for me to look him up. He is down with the motorcycle cause and helps those out when he can. He lives in the penthouse of one of the tall rises on the Malicon. The view from my balcony. The camera was setup on the hot-tub---“

By his own admission, Jimmy Hughes was contracted to “stop Fred Alvarez.” John Paul Nichols had also reportedly offered money to Glen Heggstad to stop Fred Alvarez from attending the Cabazon Tribal meeting to oust Dr. John Phillip Nichols, the tribal administrator at that time. The Tribal Council meetings were always held on the first Wednesday of each month. Thus Fred Alvarez had to be stopped before he could attend the meeting to vote against Dr. Nichols.

In a 1995 book, *Return of the Buffalo* by Ambrose Lane, the author wrote that the minutes of the tribe's General Council meeting noted that Fred Alvarez had been “voted out of office as a tribal officer” (1st Vice Chairman) on June 6, 1981 and replaced by Brenda James. (pp. 91-92). The vote was reportedly held by secret ballot and counted by Glenn Feldman, tribal attorney at that time. The newly elected officers for the next four years were: Arthur Welmas, tribal chairman; Brenda James, 1st vice chairman; Charles Welmas, 2nd vice chairman; John James, secretary-treasurer.

If this is true, then it conflicts with most of the current claims that Fred Alvarez needed to be stopped from voting at the upcoming Council meeting. Nevertheless, that would not have precluded Fred from bringing charges against Dr. Nichols, et al, at a tribal meeting, as Fred was still a member of the Cabazon tribe prior to his death on June 29, 1981.

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On October 5, 2009, I wrote to Detective John Powers asking him what documents in my files pertaining to the Mob could I publicize in an article or in my book that would *not* interfere with or jeopardize his case?

Powers responded that he could only speculate what will or will not be used in the trial against Jimmy Hughes, since the trial is

probably two years away. He said the Attorney General's Office has very little information about any of the possible Mob connections, and the affidavit he (Powers) put together for Hughes' arrest warrant didn't go into any Mob connections. But Powers cautioned: "That doesn't mean it won't come out in the trial ... the 'Mob angle' comes into the story when people ask for motive. That's when the entire Octopus falls out of the sky and complicates everything. When people ask, 'Why did the Nichols family want Fred [Alvarez] out of the picture?' Then we have to start talking about what the Nichols family was getting into. I would love to avoid all of that in a trial but I don't think it's possible. It's all over the Internet if you know what to look for --- "

Powers concluded: "The best answer I can give you at this point is that you have uncovered all of this Mob information long before I became involved in the case and you have every right to publish it and talk about it with anyone. At this point in the case none of that information is evidence against Jimmy, so I can confidently say that you are not exposing evidence of the case."

I could not imagine how the DOJ prosecutors were going to keep the Mob out of their case? Throughout my research, I had repeatedly bumped into the Mob connections at the Cabazon reservation in the early 1980's. Dr. John Philip Nichols and his son had been observed by Indio police meeting with Tommy Marson, a Gambino organized crime associate, at Marson's sprawling mansion in Rancho Mirage, California. Marson had provided the seed money for the first Cabazon Casino (the first Indian Casino in California), and by his own admission, Jimmy Hughes had been a "Mafia" hit-man.

Within the Morasca Homicide Case File No. 82-1052505 (at S.F. Police Dept.) was a report entitled, "Interim Overview ---," dated February 1982, which included a document from the Indio Police Dept. dated August 21, 1981, relating to the investigation of the Cabazon Indians in Indio. This document included a surveillance report in which Dr. John Nichols was observed communicating, visiting and meeting with various La Cosa Nostra (LCN) crime figures such as Tommy Marson, Irving Shapiro, Vincent Caci Bologna, Anthony Fratianno, Daniel Magano, and other LCN underworld figures.

It doesn't take a stretch of the imagination to surmise that Dr. Nichols and his LCN friends were involved in some manner of fi-



nancial transactions, they weren't having tea parties, and that LCN could conceivably have provided money to Dr. Nichols for nefarious purposes as well as business objectives. Dr. Nichols appeared, for all intents and purposes, to be the intermediary between the Cabazons and the Mob, and the Mob needed that infiltration.

This was all speculation based on my own findings, so in an effort to clarify the Riverside Sheriff department's *final* position at the end of their two-year investigation, I asked Detective John Powers to summarize his perspective in relation to the various criminal enterprises he had encountered during his probe. What was the real motive for the triple-homicide, and was it related to the Octopus?

His response was pragmatic, and somewhat anticlimactic, but as I explained to him later, the truth is the truth, and that is the purpose of writing the book. Nevertheless, from a law enforcement point of view, including the California DOJ, it is their job to remove conspiracy entanglements from the case, because that would play into the hands of the defense lawyer.

This is Detective Powers' straightforward reply to my question, received on November 9, 2009:

Cheri: In reference to your questions for *The Last Circle*.

(1) The Motive: I've heard many people say that Fred [Alvarez] was killed because of what he knew. I don't actually believe that. I think Fred knew very little about what was really going on at Cabazon. I believe Fred suspected the money was being mishandled and / or stolen from the Indians by the Nichols family. I believe Fred was going to bring this to the attention of the tribal council at the upcoming meeting and possibly introduce evidence of profit skimming.

If Fred convinced the tribal council that the Nichols family was stealing Indian money, it could have resulted in the Nichols family being fired and sent packing. I don't think Fred had any idea how devastating that would have actually been to the Nichols family.

There were three major things going on that Fred didn't know anything about. At least I've never been given any proof that Fred knew about it. One of those things was the Mafia connection. The Mafia was directly connected to the start-up capital in the Cabazon Casino. Tommy Marson gave them a \$50,000 loan and Rocco Zangari was the first casino manager. The Mafia would not have invested this kind of money if they didn't believe this was a potential gold

mine. Everybody believed the Cabazon Casino could potentially bring in millions of dollars.

If the Nichols family was fired, the casino would have continued on without them. There were plenty of investors who believed in it and plenty of lawyers willing to take it to the Supreme Court and fight for the right to gamble on Indian land. The Cabazon Casino was going forward with or without Dr. John Philip Nichols. The only people who stood to lose any money by Fred coming forward with his information were the Nichols family. They were the only people with a motive to stop Fred.

Another thing that Fred probably didn't know about was the extent of the business proposals that Cabazon Arms was trying to get off the ground. There was nothing illegal about what Cabazon Arms was trying to do. The manufacturing of weapons for the US Government is a huge industry with millions of dollars available in government contracts. You have to submit your bid proposals of what you are capable of doing and you have to be able to win your bid.

Cabazon joined with Wackenhut because Wackenhut had a great reputation and long history with the US Government. Wackenhut joined with Cabazon because Doc Nichols had a long history of successfully obtaining grants and government contracts. The two forces complimented each other. Cabazon Arms obtained the financial backing of investors (like G. Wayne Reeder) and found an ammunition manufacturer (Peter Zokosky) and they had the perfect location to build and test large caliber weapons on the Cabazon Reservation.

This was a no-brainer great idea and everyone saw the potential to make millions of dollars if they obtained the contracts. It was also completely legal and there was nothing for Fred to blow the whistle on.

Fred coming forward with accusations about the Nichols family stealing Indian money would have caused problems. The government would not have awarded the contract to Cabazon Arms if the allegations turned out to be true. Most likely, the government would have insisted that the Nichols family be removed from the equation before any contract was awarded.

With the amount of money at stake, I have no doubt that Wackenhut, the Cabazon tribe, G. Wayne Reeder and everyone else would have insisted that the Nichols family be removed from the deal. The only people who really stood to lose any money by

Fred coming forward with his information would have been the Nichols family. As it turned out, the Nichols family was accused of a number of other nefarious deeds and Cabazon Arms never obtained a single government contract.

The third major thing going on at Cabazon that Fred probably didn't know about, were the events surrounding the infamous Lake Cahuilla Incident.

In September of 1981, the CIA had the full authority and backing of the Presidency to invest in, train, and support the anti-Sandinista movement of the Contras in Nicaragua. This was well known and well documented as you know.

The Contra rebels needed a lot of weapons and training on how to use them. Weapons manufacturers were climbing over each other to win the government contracts worth millions of dollars to manufacture cheap guns in massive quantities. And retired US servicemen with combat experience were being hired to train the Contras in their headquarters in Honduras.

The Lake Cahuilla Incident is a perfect picture of how these things occurred. You only have to look at those in attendance to figure out what was happening. You had representatives from Cabazon Arms, representatives from weapons manufacturing facilities, financial investors, and Contra Generals and procurement members from Nicaragua. The City Manager was there because the city of Indio owned this facility and there were foreign dignitaries visiting. The city police were there to protect everyone present. There were some very important people present and a lot of weapons being fired. This kind of security is very common.

In 1981, this was very common and completely legal. The US Government doesn't deny supporting, training and arming the Contras. Cabazon Arms was just trying to tap into another government contract that was potentially worth millions. I won't bother repeating myself but this is the same as above. It would have continued with or without the Nichols family and only the Nichols family would have lost money by Fred's accusations.

In a nutshell, I believe Fred was preparing to bring a case against the Nichols for embezzlement and / or mismanagement of funds. Fred had no idea how damaging his accusations actually were and how much money he was going to cost the Nichols family. This is why I believe Fred was killed and why I believe the Nichols were the only ones with the motive to do it.

(2) Yes, you provided me with a lot of material that helped in my investigation. I couldn't say immediately what specific docu-

ments or information were the most helpful without going back and reviewing everything. But I did read the Internet version of *The Last Circle* at the very beginning of this investigation and I learned a great deal about what I was getting myself into.

Oh, I just remembered something incredible that I learned from you. You told me that I would find previously unknown documents and notes connected to the Alvarez investigation hidden inside of the Paul Morasca file in San Francisco. I thought there was no chance in Hell that was possible and you must have bogus information.

“I couldn’t take the chance of being wrong so I went to San Francisco and looked for myself. My jaw hit the floor when I searched the Morasca file and found a dozen police reports from the Riverside County Sheriff’s Dept. and Riverside County DA’s Office, and Indio Police Department and they were all about the Alvarez murders. These were reports I had never seen before and for some reason were missing from the Alvarez murder file.

“Some of these reports were very helpful in solving this case and I would never have known about them if it weren’t for you. Thank you.”

JP

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As of December 1, 2009 the extradition of Jimmy Hughes from Miami to Riverside, California was being stalled by Hughes’ Miami lawyer, Rene Sotorrio. Hughes had been arrested on September 26, 2009 and by December 1st he still hadn’t been extradited and remained in the Metro West Detention Center in Miami. The next extradition hearing was scheduled for December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The wheels of justice grind slowly, but the history of DOJ prosecutions on anything related to the Octopus to date in California was essentially zero. I had concerns that at some point the federal government might attempt to step into the case as they had in the past, but Powers explained that the California DOJ planned to narrow the prosecution of Jimmy Hughes to a simple case that excluded any exculpatory evidence relating to the Octopus conspiracies, i.e, the Mob, Wackenhut, etc., which could be used by the defense. I presumed this was also why Detective Powers chose not to mention my name or my research contributions to any of the media people who interviewed him after the Jimmy Hughes arrest.

In the meantime, Rachel Begley was monitoring the progress of the extradition of Jimmy Hughes through media reports and making inroads at the clerk's office in Miami. On November 20, she sent an e-mail to Deputy Attorney General Mike Murphy at the DOJ's office in San Diego. I roared when I read it, and realized that the DOJ didn't have a chance with "Danger Girl" on their backs, nor did Jimmy Hughes. This is the e-mail that she sent:

**From:** Rachel Begley  
**Sent:** Friday, November 20, 2009 6:16 PM  
**To:** Mike Murphy – DOJ CA.  
**Subject:** Jimmy Hughes Continuance?

Hi,

I did some checking around today and found out about Hughes' atty asking for a continuation. The way one of the news sources makes it sound is that Hughes' atty was in contact with you (or your office) about this continuation?

I'm just curious if that is true? And if so, why stall it? Let's get him back to California and make his attorney actually work to come to California, let's not help them with their defense ya know? Rachel Begley.

Jimmy Hughes waived extradition in court on December 3, and will be brought back to California by Detective John Powers and booked into the Riverside County jail. Rachel Begley will likely be a key witness at Hughes' trial in a couple of years, along with other individuals introduced in *The Last Circle*. Over the years, the investigation of the Octopus took on a life of its own, so I followed it where it took me, like a leaf on a river. My story ended with the arrest and extradition of Jimmy Hughes, but there will be plenty of media coverage at the trial, and the Octopus saga will find its own ending.

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NEWS FLASH – Addendum 2010: Seven months later a surprising twist occurred in the Jimmy Hughes homicide case. Deputy Attorney General Mike Murphy, who was prosecuting the case out of the San Diego office, notified Rachel Begley that he planned to drop the charges against Hughes at a felony settlement conference hearing in Indio on July 1, the 29th anniversary of the triple

homicide in which Begley's father, Ralph Boger, had been found murdered.

Hughes had been arrested on September 26, 2009 and charged with three counts of murder (with special circumstances) and one count of conspiracy. Inexplicably, the case was suddenly being dismissed, despite the fact that Jimmy Hughes had been in custody for nine months.

Rachel wanted to speak at the court hearing, under Marcy's Law, in which the victim can give a statement to the court and to the accused. I accompanied her to the District Attorney's office prior to the hearing in her effort to obtain assistance from the Witness/Victim Advocate Services Division of the D.A.'s office, Indio branch.

Rachel spoke with Lorena Serrano, victim services advocate, who was the first person we had encountered in the court system who listened attentively to Rachel's story and promised to follow through on Rachel's behalf.

That evening, on June 30<sup>th</sup>, while we ate dinner with Andrew Rice who was interviewing us for a story in *Wired* magazine, a surprise call came in from Lorena advising Rachel to call Robin Sax, a high profile victim's advocate attorney in Los Angeles. Sax was a former Riverside County prosecutor and former Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney.

Robin is also an in-house NBC News legal analyst and regular guest commentator for several national television shows, analyzing many hi-profile cases including CNN's *Larry King Live*, HLN's Nancy Grace, NBC's *Today Show*, *Dr. Phil*, Tyra Banks, *CBS Early Show*, *Issues with Jane Velez Mitchell*, HLN's *Prime News*, Fox's *Geraldo at Large*, *Insider* and many others. She has commentated on high profile cases including Jaycee Duggard, Amber Dubois, Chelsea King, Anthony Sowell, Roman Polanski, Charlie Sheen, Michael Jackson, Casey Anthony, Natalee Holloway, Drew Peterson, OJ Simpson and many others.

Sax offered to represent Rachel free of charge and immediately filed a motion with the superior court in Indio to Preserve Victims Rights under Marcy's Law and Proceed to Preliminary Hearing relative to the Jimmy Hughes case # INF066719.

At the hearing on July 1, media from all over California swarmed the courthouse with TV cameras and jostled to get into the courtroom. At 1:30 p.m. Deputy Attorney General Mike Murphy re-

quested that the case against Jimmy Hughes be dismissed under Penal Code 1385.

Murphy told the court that the Attorney General's office originally accepted the Riverside Sheriff's package for prosecution last summer, but after his office reviewed and interviewed key witnesses, they developed *new* information that was not known to law enforcement at the time that the Riverside sheriff's department filed the charges. Based on this new information, Murphy said they reassessed the case and dropped it. There was also a problem with the "procedural history" of the case; Murphy did not define what it was or reveal what the *new* information was. He said, "We have lost confidence in our ability to proceed with the prosecution of this case."

Judge Dale R. Wells denied Robin Sax's motion to retain Jimmy Hughes in jail and proceed to a preliminary hearing where evidence could be presented, but he allowed Rachel to give her statement.

Judge Wells also granted the prosecutor's request to drop the case, and Jimmy Hughes was set free that day.

At the conclusion of the hearing, Detective John Powers told the Associated Press that he still believes Hughes is guilty and hoped to someday resubmit the case with new evidence.

On July 2, 2010 NBC TV News, Los Angeles (NBC-LA), aired coverage of the court hearing in Indio: A segment of the newscast included a 25-year-old interview in which Jimmy Hughes said that the Fred Alvarez triple homicide in 1981 was an "ordered assassination," but he was only the bagman. Hughes told the reporter, Patrick Healy, in the 1985 news clip that the hit was an "authorized, backed, government covert action." See video of the news clip at this website: "[http://www.nbclosangeles.com/station/as-seen-on/Victim\\_s\\_Daughter\\_Decries\\_Dismissal\\_of\\_Murder\\_Charges\\_Los\\_Angeles.html](http://www.nbclosangeles.com/station/as-seen-on/Victim_s_Daughter_Decries_Dismissal_of_Murder_Charges_Los_Angeles.html)"

The *Desert Sun* in Indio wrote the following on July 2, 2010:

"Octopus Murders' Case Dropped: Officials Refuse to Divulge New Evidence that Led to Dismissal" by Brian Indrelunas: (excerpted)

... Begley said she doubts that Murphy and the attorney general's office had discovered new evidence.

"I frankly don't believe that he found any new (information)," she said. "The evidence that we found was more than sufficient and handed to him on a silver platter."

Begley left the courtroom in tears but said she isn't done fighting. "It's not the end, definitely not the end," she said. "We have a legal strategy."

Frustrated with prosecutors' handling of the case, Begley hired her own attorney, Robin Sax, late Wednesday.

Sax filed a motion asking Wells to keep the case active long enough for a preliminary hearing to be held, but the judge rejected the motion, saying that a victim did not have the necessary standing to make such a request in a criminal case.

Sax said she would continue working on Begley's behalf but declined to detail her next steps.

Wells dismissed the case against Hughes without prejudice, meaning prosecutors could refile the case in the future, said Westrup, the attorney general's spokesman.

Powers, the sheriff's detective, said he would continue to actively investigate the case and would consider resubmitting it to prosecutors.

But with Hughes released Thursday, Begley said she fears for the safety of herself and others---

The statement that Rachel Begley articulated in the courtroom (for the record) before the judge dismissed the case. As follows: (excerpted)

## Statement to the Court and Honorable Judge Dale R. Wells

July 1, 2010

Your Honor,

May I request that this statement, per Marcy's Law, be made a permanent record of this court.

My name is Rachel Begley. My father, Ralph Boger, was murdered in an execution style triple homicide in Rancho Mirage 29 years ago. The anniversary of his murder is today, July 1<sup>st</sup>.

The defendant, James Hughes, who is sitting in this court today, admitted his involvement in my father's murder years ago, and has published at various websites in the US and in Latin American newspapers that he was a professional mafia hit man before he found God. I will gladly provide you with these articles at your request.

I am not here today to present the abundance of evidence against Jimmy Hughes; I am here to plead with you *not* to release



Mr. Hughes because I and numerous other victims and witnesses will live in fear for the rest of our lives if Mr. Hughes is set free to return to his home in Honduras where he is politically connected with both the government and the military. If future harm comes to me or other witnesses by Hughes or his followers, I believe there would be no cooperative effort between the United States and Honduras to bring Mr. Hughes to justice.

Indeed, he is being released today in the US despite the fact that he is a self confessed hit man who has cold bloodedly murdered numerous innocent people during his career as a hit man.

This case is paralleling the Joran Van Der Sloot case in which he was released in Aruba and subsequently killed a girl in Lima, Peru. I ask this court, how many people must die or suffer at the hands of James Hughes before he is brought to justice? He has literally gotten away with murder if he is released today. This is a demoralizing lesson to the general public who regained their faith in the justice system when Mr. Hughes was arrested in September 2009.

It is also demoralizing to the law enforcement people in Riverside who risked everything to reopen this case and solve it when no one else cared---despite the fact that there is no statute of limitations on the murder of three people in 1981.

I don't know the law, Your Honor, but I pray that you will do the right and honorable thing in this court today, regardless of whether Mr. Mike Murphy of the Dept of Justice in San Diego chooses not to prosecute this case for personal reasons, or because of a technicality relating to due process that occurred 29 years ago, or because this case is complicated and could be an embarrassment to the Justice Department at this late date.

I request, Your Honor, that the record state that I believe there should be a preliminary hearing so that the court can determine the evidence in this case. Nothing has changed since the filing of this case, so either it was an unethical filing or an unethical dismissal-even according to Mr. Murphy's own words, this case should have been tried 25 years ago. Due to the diligence of Det. John Powers and my own independent investigations, and lack of the statute of limitations, there has been no due process violation. Instead, only an abuse of prosecutorial discretion. This case is not just a personal setback, but a setback for the system as a whole.

While I expect the defense attorneys to fight on behalf of their client, I am astounded by the lack of victim advocacy and society protection by the prosecution in this case. Frankly, it amounts to prosecutorial misconduct and a miscarriage of justice.

I do not understand how Attorney General Jerry Brown could support the release of Mr. Hughes. How can he be elected Governor of California if he can't manage his staff competently in San Diego?

Please be advised that the only request I am making for myself and on behalf of the family members of the other murder victims, is that the evidence against Mr. Hughes be presented in a court of law and that Mr. Hughes face his accusers here in the United States rather than hiding out in Honduras where he is untouchable.

He preaches publicly in Latin America and in the US that God has forgiven him for his murders, yet I question whether he has truly repented. He has never shown any remorse for his crimes of murder, never apologized to me or the other victims, so how could he have repented?

I ask that James Hughes remain in custody at least until another DOJ prosecutor who is less timid can be assigned to prosecute this case. Or perhaps the case can be handed over to another jurisdiction or a special prosecutor. My own attorney, Robin Sax, has offered to prosecute this case as a special prosecutor, should the court allow this. There must be a way, Your Honor, with the power and wisdom of this court, that you can find a way to protect the lives and rights of Hughes' victims.

To Jimmy Hughes I say: I hope your short time in jail has given you time to truly repent. Be advised that even if the court and the Attorney General fail me today, I will never give up seeking truth and justice for my dad, Fred, and Patty.

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