

State of South Carolina
Solicitor, Thirteenth Judicial Circuit

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W. Walter Wilkins

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

December 19, 2019

South American Man Sentenced to 22 years on May 2000 Shooting in Mauldin

Thirteenth Circuit Solicitor Walt Wilkins states that REYNALDO RAMON PIMIENTA, age 55, pled guilty on December 19, 2019, to Assault and Battery with Intent to Kill and possession of a firearm during the commission of a violent crime, and sentenced to 22 years in the South Carolina Department of Corrections by the Honorable Judge Perry Gravely.

Evidence presented at the plea hearing by Assistant Solicitor Ryan Holloway established that in the early morning hours of May 11, 2000, REYNALDO RAMON PIMIENTA followed the victim Olga Restrepo on her way home from work. They had been in a relationship she had recently ended. When Olga stopped at a traffic light in Mauldin, the Defendant pulled his vehicle to the driver's side of her car and fired his gun into her vehicle. One of the bullets went through her door and struck the left side of her body. Ms. Restrepo sustained permanent paraplegia.

The Defendant fled the United States for nearly two decades. Reports of his whereabouts came from as far away as Spain. This crime was profiled on television programs such as America's Most Wanted and Nancy Grace. Multiple law enforcement agencies from around the world, including the Mauldin Police Department, the FBI, U.S. Marshals, the U.S. State Department, and authorities in Colombia, South America, all worked tirelessly to apprehend the Defendant. The FBI maintained Mr. Pimienta on its Most Wanted List until he was located in October 2017 in Colombia. Authorities discovered he had subscribed to a cell phone, pinged that phone, and tracked and arrested Pimienta.