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This article was [originally written in Spanish](#), the below is it's translation (11/2009/MR)

Latino, Victim of racismo narrates his tragic story.

A young Peruvian confesses how he survives the struggles since being sentenced next to his cousin, on charges of aggravated assault and murder as a result of a confrontation by a group of white youth on August 1996.

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Dennis Calderón, said that the night of the incident, his family had to move out of their newly purchased home due to the insults and threats by the individuals that attacked them (Foto: David Cruz/AL Día)

Dennis Calderón currently 36 years old, married with two children provided his side of what happened the night of the incident. According to residents from their former neighborhood, the case was in the English speaking newspapers the next day, except they only reported the side of the alleged victim, Christian Saladino, then 17-years old. .

It was like midnight on Saturday, 4 August 1996, when Dennis and his cousin Julio Maldonado who was visiting from New York City walked to a nearby bar only a minute away from his home at 1147 Rosalie St. in Northeast Philadelphia. They both had a couple of beers before they went to nearby Frontenac Bar located in the corner of Oxford and Frontenac. Before they reached the bar, group of youths stopped them insulting and degrading words. In view of this, according to Dennis, his cousin said "let's go back". When they realized they tried to avoid the individual got up and began to throw bottles of beer against them, chased them with racial insults as "SPIC, Get Out! What are you doing here?". Finally since there were many, they were ambushed. "*I tried to defend myself but they were too many,*" said Dennis.

He also remembers that in the middle of the commotion he lost sight of his cousin and when those who were attacking him ceased, he ran to his house to tell his wife Marisol and asked her to call the police. He then went back out in search of his cousin, but took a bat to defend himself from those chasing him. The neighbors from his block saw what had happened. In testimony taken by private detective Richard T Strohm, Robert Adcox declares "I saw Christian laid out on the ground and appeared as if he had passed out from so much drinking and then I noticed that Dennis came running from Frontenac

street without a shirt on, being chased by 20 or more people” said Adcox.

When the police arrived, they found Saladino on the ground of Rosalie Street. Dennis, was there next to his neighbors trying to explain what happened to Police Officer Robert Killman. One of the boys who attacked him earlier punched him in front of the policeman who did nothing. On the contrary, what the officer did next was arrest Dennis and his cousin with counts of aggravated assault.

Verbal attacks continued against Dennis and his family, "Bitch move or we will burn down your house" were the threats they received, the police did nothing to stop them nor arrested them. That same night, Dennis' family had to move out of the neighborhood for fear of being attacked by those who were threatening them.

None of the members in this group were ever brought to court, only Dennis and Julio.

In the trial, there's no proof of any investigations by the police or the authorities to find out how the fight originated. However, neighbors that were not at the incident, learned from the newspapers that two Latinos had brutally beaten Christian Saladino. It should be remembered that Saladino died a year later, according to expert Dr. Walter I. Hofman "*Christian Saladino could have collapsed as a result of a pre-existing condition in his body or by drug abuse*". "*Either way, his medical condition was not caused by being hit with an instrument or by an iron bar*"

Next week; Judgment, Probation and the Recapture of Julio Maldonado