

# UPDATED: Christmas Morning Victim ID'd; Relatives Mourn

At least three others are injured and taken to area hospitals, said LAPD spokesman.

By [Redmond Carolipio](#) | [Email the author](#) | December 25, 2010

Cesar Guerrero remembers fixing French toast and sausage for his son on Christmas Eve. On Christmas, he had to come to Baxter Street near Echo Park Avenue—a neighborhood he and his family left behind two years ago—to identify his son's body.

Eighteen-year-old Caesar Frank Guerrero of Bell Gardens was the lone fatality in a Christmas morning shooting that also left three other men wounded. Police reported the shooting took place just before noon at Innes Avenue near Sunset Boulevard, with Guerrero's body being discovered in an otherwise empty Honda Civic on Baxter Street.

"He was hard-headed. We butted heads many times about him being in gangs. I kept telling him, it leads to nothing," said the elder Guerrero, who was waiting with huddling family members and friends at the corner of Baxter and Echo Park Avenue in the late afternoon waiting for his son's body to be taken from the scene. "I told him about his boys, his homies or whatever—where are they now? They could have taken him to hospital, gotten some help ... no. They ran away and left him to die."

The police have said that the investigation is still in its infancy, however, and that it is too soon to tell if the shooting was gang-related at all.

"We are still in the very early stages of the investigation," said LAPD spokesman Lt. John Romero, who also noted that the scenes at Innes Avenue and Baxter Street will be treated as separate crime scenes. No motives for the shootings have been determined.

Police said that an altercation between an unknown number of men in a white Honda Civic and three pedestrians apparently led to gunfire, with all three pedestrians wounded. Those pedestrians, all males, were being treated at area hospitals, Romero said Sunday afternoon.

Maria De Los Santos of Bell Gardens, the grandmother of Caesar Guerrero, said that while her grandson ran with the wrong crowd, he had started talking about getting a job and making an effort to turn things around after Christmas.

"He was talking about going to school," she said. "He was just a kid. He deserved to live. I deserve to have great-grandchildren. I deserve to have a grandson. This is so terrible."

Cesar Guerrero said his oldest son may have been stubborn, but he was also smart.

"He was good at math," he said of Caesar Guerrero. "When he was younger, he got into all kinds of trouble. He was in and out of juvie. We left this neighborhood two years ago. I never thought he'd still be coming around here."

With his oldest son gone, the father said he now must turn his attention to Caesar Guerrero's three younger brothers.

"They are nothing like this. They're into video games and other stuff. I have to tell them that their brother is gone," he said.

"He could have just stayed home. He could have just stayed home for Christmas."