

= Benjamín Galván Gómez =

Benjamín Galván Gómez ( 10 June 1972 ? 28 February 2014 ) was a Mexican businessman and politician of the Institutional Revolutionary Party ( PRI ) . He was the mayor of Nuevo Laredo , Tamaulipas , from 1 January 2011 to 30 September 2013 . His political projects focused on promoting education , improving the standards of living , and in bringing back a sense of public security to the citizens of the city . He also owned the newspapers Primera Hora and Última Hora . During his mayoral administration in Nuevo Laredo , Galván received numerous threats from organized crime . Five months after his term , he was kidnapped and killed by alleged members of the Los Zetas crime syndicate .

= = Early life and career = =

Benjamín Galván Gómez was born in Nuevo Laredo , Tamaulipas , Mexico , on 10 June 1972 . His parents were Benjamín Galván Maytonera and Martha Graciela Gómez . He was married to Martha Alicia Aldapa Campos and had three children . Galván graduated from the Autonomous University of Tamaulipas ( UAT ) in 1993 with a degree in Accounting , as well as from the Universidad Valle del Bravo with a degree in Law in 1997 .

As a businessman , Galván was the general @-@ director and owner of the newspapers Primera Hora and Última Hora . He also taught as a professor at the UAT and served as president of the Cruz Roja and Casa del Migrante in Nuevo Laredo . In politics , Galván held the following positions : head of the Fiscal Office of Tamaulipas in Nuevo Laredo , director of Protección Civil y Bomberos , director and delegate of the Tamaulipas Department of Tourism , member of the Binational Committee of Tourism , and leader of Frente Juvenil .

= = Mayoralty = =

From 1 January 2011 to 30 September 2013 , Galván served as the municipal president ( mayor ) of Nuevo Laredo , Tamaulipas , a border city on the U.S.-Mexico border . Sponsored by the Institutional Revolutionary Party ( PRI ) , Galván had won the mayoral election with 73 % of the votes , succeeding former Nuevo Laredo mayor Ramón Garza Barrios ( 2008 ? 2010 ) . The PRI created a party coalition known as " Todos Tamaulipas " ( All Tamaulipas ) with the Ecologist Green Party of Mexico and the New Alliance Party . Galván won with 83 @,@ 250 votes in favor , while the runner @-@ up contender José Salvador Rosas Quintanilla of the National Action Party ( PAN ) received 22 @,@ 330 votes . The other candidates that ran for office were Everardo Quiroz Torres of the Party of the Democratic Revolution , who received 3 @,@ 917 votes ; Angélica López Quiroz of the Labor Party , who received 1 @,@ 138 ; and Jorge Alejandro García Amador of Convergence , who received 963 . Galván 's mayor pro tempore was Delfino Eduardo González Muñoz .

During his administration Galván said his projects were based on three main pillars : bringing back tranquility to Neolaredenses ( citizens of Nuevo Laredo ) ; improving employment and the standard of living ; and working to promote education . In his first annual government speech after a year in office , Galván talked about the administration 's projects in security , financing , and public works . He stated that by the end of 2011 , the Nuevo Laredo municipal government managed to reduce its debt by 600 million pesos ( equivalent to US \$ 45 @,@ 826 @,@ 200 ) . In coordination with the state government and federal authorities , he emphasized the importance of Operation Security Tamaulipas for crime prevention in Nuevo Laredo . In his second annual speech , he talked about the projects carried out in his administration , recognizing that public debt and security were the biggest challenges and priorities in his term . In his third and final annual speech , Galván talked about the city 's advances in infrastructure and other public works . City officials , including politicians from other parties and the mayor of Laredo , Texas , Raul G. Salinas , graded Galván 's term as " Good " .

In his term Galván inaugurated the Dr. Rodolfo Torre Cantú Auditorium with a 5 @,@ 000 @-@ seat capacity and the future home stadium of the Toros de Nuevo Laredo basketball team ; the

Unidad Deportiva Benito Juárez ( Benito Juárez Sport Complex ) , the home stadium of the Bravos de Nuevo Laredo football club ; Nuevo Laredo 's first aquarium in Parque Viveros and its first amusement park with mechanical dinosaurs and other educational attractions at Park Narciso Mendoza , as well as the reconstruction of other installations for social events . In the last year of his administration , however , the Superior Audit Office of Mexico , the audit office of the Mexican federal government , discovered two irregularities in the city 's spending and budget .

On 30 September 2013 , at the end of his mayoral administration , Galván was succeeded by Carlos Enrique Canturosas Villarreal of the PAN .

= = = Threats from organized crime = = =

During his tenure as mayor , Galván received death threats from organized crime . Nuevo Laredo has been the battleground among Mexico 's drug trafficking organizations given its proximity to the U.S ? Mexico border and Interstate 35 , a lucrative route where most of the cocaine , marijuana and methamphetamine that reaches the United States are smuggled through . In May 2012 , alleged organized crime members left the headless corpses of 14 men inside a vehicle near the Nuevo Laredo city hall . Alongside the corpses was a written message reportedly from the Sinaloa Cartel that accused Galván and other city officials of working for Los Zetas ( such accusations between gangsters and local officials are common in Mexico ) . In June 2012 , a car bomb detonated outside the Nuevo Laredo city hall at Galván 's parking area , injuring several bystanders . On February 2013 , the Nuevo Laredo police chief Roberto Alejandro Balmori Garza was kidnapped and his two brothers were found dead . He had been appointed by Galván as head of the police in 2011 following the murder of Manuel Farfán Carriola , the former police chief of Nuevo Laredo .

In an interview held in 2013 , Galván said that Nuevo Laredo , aside from the violence generated by organized crime , was plagued with extortions , armed robberies , car hijackings , and regular thefts . He recognized that restoring public safety was possible , but reiterated that it was a difficult and long process for all branches of the government . Among the solutions he proposed was the reconstruction of Nuevo Laredo 's social fiber , since he believed that that would keep the younger generations and those suffering from poverty away from the lure of organized crime . Galván admitted that the Nuevo Laredo police force was composed entirely of members of the Mexican Armed Forces , the Federal Police , and Tamaulipas state law enforcement and not by municipal police officers , who had all been suspended for investigation and training . However , he said that the military had a role to play , but that he wanted to see civilian forces step up to the job in the future .

= = Kidnapping and death = =

As Galván left a Farmacia Guadalajara drugstore near his home in Nuevo Laredo , Tamaulipas , on the evening of 27 February 2014 , he was kidnapped along with businessman Miguel Ángel Ortiz . His vehicle was discovered abandoned with open doors in the pharmacy 's parking lot by his wife . The following day , a disfigured corpse found in the trunk of a pickup truck in the town of García , Nuevo León , was taken to the hospital of the Autonomous University of Nuevo León . After more than a month of forensic examination , experts officially identified the corpse as that of Galván on 31 March 2014 . Post @-@ mortem reports concluded that Galván had been tortured before being killed with a coup de grâce . The exact location of Galván 's murder remains unknown , although authorities tend to believe he was most likely killed in Tamaulipas .

On 11 March 2014 , Mexican authorities arrested Carlos Pérez González , a former member of the Mexican Army Special Forces and ex @-@ policeman from Nuevo León , for his involvement in Galván 's murder . Pérez González confessed following his arrest , alleging that Los Zetas had recruited him . The police reported that unidentified gangsters ordered Pérez González and Oziel Enrique Medina Rangel ( alias " El Trompas " ) to transport the former mayor 's corpse through Nuevo León and into Coahuila state . But because of law enforcement surveillance on their planned route , they abandoned the truck with Galván 's corpse in García , Nuevo León . For disobeying

those orders , organized crime members killed " El Trompas " and dumped his body in Salinas Victoria .

On 17 March 2014 , José Isidro Cruz Villarreal ( alias " El Pichilo " ) was arrested for his involvement in the murder . Investigators believe he was one of the men in charge of ordering Pérez González and " El Trompas " to transport the body to Coahuila . " El Pichilo " , who had escaped from prison during the Apodaca prison riot in 2012 , was arrested following information provided by Pérez González . On 12 April 2014 , Pérez González was stabbed to death by unknown assailants in the restroom area at the Topo Chico prison in Monterrey .

The kidnapping and murder of the former mayor came as a surprise to some law enforcement authorities given the fact that Galván was living a seemingly ordinary life as a citizen of Laredo ? Nuevo Laredo border area . " He didn 't have to worry about anything and then he gets kidnapped " , said Webb County Sheriff Martin Cuellar . The authorities believe that the attack was perpetrated by Los Zetas , but the motives behind the incident remain unknown .

= = = Funeral = = =

Hundreds of people , including family members , friends , local citizens , and politicians , attended Galván 's funeral at the Catholic Catedral del Espíritu Santo in Nuevo Laredo on 4 April 2014 . Nuevo Laredo bishop Gustavo Rodríguez Vega and Laredo , Texas bishop James Anthony Tamayo jointly conducted the mass , assisted by 12 priests . Following the ceremony , the former mayor was buried at the Panteón de Los Ángeles cemetery .