

## Daniel Lugo - Florida Death Row



### Summary of Offense:

Daniel Lugo was convicted for, among other charges, the attempted murder of Marc Schiller as well as the murders of Frank Griga and Krisztina Furton.

### Kidnapping, Extortion and Attempted Murder of Marc Schiller:

Schiller was a successful executive who hired Jorge Delgado to help with his business. Delgado often visited Schiller's house and the two eventually became good friends. Delgado worked out at Sun Gym where Lugo worked. Lugo began joining Delgado on visits to Schiller's house. Through Lugo, Delgado also became acquainted with the codefendants, Noel Doorbal and John Mese. In 1994, Schiller questioned Delgado's business practices, which caused an argument between the two. Schiller told Delgado he was severing the business ties between them. Lugo convinced Delgado that Schiller had cheated the two of them in billing operations. Upon Lugo's advice, Delgado hired John Mese as a replacement accountant. Delgado testified that Lugo produced documents to back up his claims. When questioned by Delgado, Schiller denied any wrongdoing.

It was at this time that Lugo, along with friends of his, made a plan to kidnap Schiller and force him to sign over assets Lugo believed Schiller owed him and Delgado. Although Delgado had originally told Lugo he wanted nothing to do with the plan, he became very involved in the plot. Delgado gave specific information to Lugo about Schiller's life regarding

his schedule, details about his home, and family to Lugo. Lugo and his group then secretly observed Schiller. After a few attempts, they were successful in kidnapping Schiller. They took him to a warehouse Delgado had rented. Lugo demanded that Schiller sign over his assets to him. After Schiller refused, the group began beating him and shocking him with a stun gun. Schiller finally agreed to sign after Lugo had threatened to harm Schiller's wife and children. Schiller unwillingly began signing checks and documents, giving Lugo possession of his property and assets. During this time, Schiller was blindfolded, so he could not see what he was signing.

Three weeks into the kidnapping, a member of the group approached Lugo and convinced him they needed to kill Schiller because he could possibly identify some or all of those involved. In the fourth week of the abduction, they forced Schiller to consume a large amount of alcohol. Lugo took Schiller's car and ran it into a pole to make it appear as though Schiller was involved in a car accident. They took Schiller to the car and put him in the front seat. They then poured gasoline over the vehicle and set it on fire. The group was then ready to leave the scene in another car when they saw Schiller in the road. Lugo then told the driver to run him over, which the driver did. They left the scene convinced that Schiller was dead.

They found out later that Schiller had actually survived, and, at his request, was transported to New York. While Schiller was in New York, Lugo and his group emptied his house and bank accounts. Schiller was able to identify Lugo in his testimony because he recognized Lugo's voice during his abduction. The police found items described as belonging to Schiller in Lugo's possession. Also discovered, were checks from Schiller's checking account, which were payable to Mese.

**Abduction, attempted Extortion, and the Murders of Frank Griga and Krisztina Furton:**

Noel Doorbal, one of the men involved in the abduction of Schiller with Lugo, learned of another wealthy executive, Frank Griga, and his girlfriend, Krisztina Furton. Doorbal relayed this information and convinced Lugo to form a plan to kidnap and extort the couple. Lugo accepted and was again in full participation of the planning process. Lugo and Doorbal planned to visit Griga under the guise of presenting a business proposition. They planned to gain his confidence through this encounter; however, Griga was not interested.

During their second visit on May 24, 1995, Lugo and Doorbal were to carry out the abduction, but Lugo aborted the plan. They returned later that day and invited them to dinner. Lugo's plan was to lure the couple to Doorbal's apartment. The couple did follow Lugo and Doorbal to the apartment. Jorge Delgado visited Lugo and Doorbal at Doorbal's apartment on May 25, 1995, where he was informed that Griga was killed during a fight with

Doorbal. Once Furton, Griga's girlfriend, knew Griga was seriously hurt, she started screaming. It was at that time that Lugo restrained her and injected her with Rompun, a horse tranquilizer, to subdue her.

They then started focusing on Furton for information about the code to enter Griga's home. Doorbal had carried Furton to the bottom of the staircase, where she began to scream again. She was then injected a second time with the horse tranquilizer. After answering a few questions, Furton decided not to supply them with any more information. They injected her with a third dose of the tranquilizer, which resulted in her death. Lugo hired a corrections officer, John Raimondo, to kill Furton and dispose of both the bodies. He did neither. Lugo went to Griga's house with what he thought was the code to get in. Once he realized he did not have the correct code, he called Doorbal who informed Lugo that Furton was dead. When Lugo returned to Doorbal's apartment, he told Delgado to go home and to return to Doorbal's apartment the next morning with a truck.

The next morning, both bodies were loaded onto the truck and they took them to the warehouse in Hialeah. After Lugo and Doorbal had purchased the necessary equipment, they proceeded to dismember the bodies. They also attempted to burn the heads, hands and feet. Lugo and Doorbal removed everything from Doorbal's apartment that had blood on it. On May 27 Lugo made a trip to the Bahamas to try and gain access to Griga's bank account. He was not successful and returned to Miami. On May 28, Lugo, Doorbal and another man disposed of all the body parts. Lugo ran off to the Bahamas, where he was arrested in June 1995.

Lugo was sentenced to death in Miami-Dade County on July 17, 1998.

Doorbal was also sentenced to death.

Factors Contributing to the Delay in Imposition of Sentence:

During the proceedings of Lugo's 3.850 Motion, Lugo had undergone a mental competency examination in which he was found competent to proceed with the case on 12/16/04.

Case Information:

On 09/28/98, Lugo filed his Direct Appeal to the Florida Supreme Court. Lugo's appeal claimed error in the trial court because they did not grant him separate trials for the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization counts, the Schiller counts and the Griga-Furton counts. The trial court did separate Lugo's trial from his codefendants but found that he could be tried on all counts in one trial. This Court agreed with the trial court in that each

count was connected and similar enough to try in one trial. They further stated that, even if the counts were tried separately, the charges could be introduced as evidence in each trial. Lugo also contended that there was insufficient evidence in the convictions of the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization counts. Another issue Lugo raised in the appeal was that the State made improper comments during opening and closing arguments. In addition, Lugo raised that there were errors in the introduction of evidence from previous convictions as well as Brady claims. The Court found no reversible errors in the trial courts decision and affirmed the convictions and sentences on 02/20/03.

On 07/28/03, Lugo filed a Petition for Writ Certiorari to the United States Supreme Court, which was denied on 10/06/03.

On 10/18/04, Lugo filed a 3.850 Motion to the Circuit Court. The motion was amended on 04/21/05, which was denied on 03/29/06. On 06/29/06, the Motion for Rehearing was denied.

On 07/31/06, Lugo filed a 3.851 Appeal to the Florida Supreme Court. On 10/08/08, the Florida Supreme Court affirmed the disposition of the lower court and denied the 3.851 Appeal. On 10/28/08, Lugo filed a Motion for Rehearing which was denied on 01/22/09. The Florida Supreme Court entered a Mandate on 02/10/09.

On 06/20/09, Lugo filed a Petition for Writ of Certiorari to the United States Supreme Court. The petition was denied on 10/05/09.

Lugo filed a Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus in the United States District Court, Southern District on 01/12/10. An amended petition was filed on 12/20/10. This case is currently pending.

## Charles W. Finney - Florida Death Row



### Summary of Offense:

The body of Sandra Sutherland was discovered on the bed of her apartment around 2:00 p.m. on January 16, 1991. She had been gagged, bound, and stabbed thirteen times in the back, with all but one wound penetrating the lungs. Sutherland's bedroom had been ransacked, the contents of her purse dumped on the floor, and her VCR was missing. Numerous fingerprints were gathered from the apartment, including prints from a piece of paper and from a jar of face cream found in the bedroom. The VCR was located at a local pawn shop. Fingerprints found at the apartment and on the VCR matched a fingerprint on a pawn shop ticket for Charles W. Finney, who had pawned the VCR for a \$30 loan. When questioned by police about his whereabouts on the day of the murder, Finney told police that he was home sick and never left his apartment. When police confronted Finney with the fact that he had pawned Sutherland's VCR, he told police that he was taking out his garbage, found the VCR, and pawned it for cash. Finney was a neighbor of Sutherland, until she moved to a different apartment in the same complex eight months prior to the murder. Finney testified that Sutherland contacted him about screening in her patio at her new apartment, and that he had been in Sutherland's apartment to help her move boxes in the apartment.

Finney was sentenced to death in Hillsborough County on November 10, 1992.

Case Information:

Finney filed a Direct Appeal with the Florida Supreme Court on 12/31/92, citing the following errors: insufficient evidence to support convictions and the use of pecuniary gain as an aggravator; excluding evidence that the bondage was of a consensual and sexual nature; denying a defense request that Finney's shackles be removed during the penalty phase; allowing the testimony and prohibiting cross-examination of the victim of the robbery and rape perpetrated two weeks after the Sutherland murder; denying the request for jury instructions on the specific nonstatutory mitigating circumstances; and instructing and finding three aggravating factors. On 07/20/95, the FSC affirmed the convictions and sentences.

Finney filed a Petition for Writ of Certiorari with the U.S. Supreme Court on 12/04/95 that was denied on 01/22/96.

Finney filed a 3.850 Motion with the Circuit Court on 03/31/97 that was denied on 05/04/00.

Finney filed a 3.850 Motion Appeal with the Florida Supreme Court on 06/22/00, citing claims of ineffective assistance of counsel. On 09/26/02, the FSC affirmed the trial court's denial of the 3.850 Motion.

Finney filed a Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus with the Florida Supreme Court on 02/19/01, citing claims of ineffective assistance of counsel. On 09/26/02, the FSC denied the Petition.

Finney filed a Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus with the U.S. District Court, Middle District, on 01/24/03, and on 07/17/06, the USDC denied the petition.

Finney filed a 3.850 Motion with the Circuit Court on 07/11/03 that was denied on 03/16/04.

Finney filed a 3.850 Motion Appeal with the Florida Supreme Court on 05/21/04 that was denied on 05/06/05.

Finney filed a Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus Appeal with the U.S. Court of Appeals, 11th Circuit on 08/03/06. On 11/09/06, the USCA denied the Certificate of Appealability.

Finney filed a Petition for Writ of Certiorari with the U.S. Supreme Court on 02/05/07 that was denied on 06/11/07.

On 06/21/07, Finney filed a Successive Motion to Vacate in the Circuit Court that was denied on 09/26/08.

Finney filed a 3.850 Motion Appeal with the Florida Supreme Court on 11/17/08 that was denied on 09/03/09.

On 11/29/10, Finney filed a Successive Motion to Vacate in the Circuit Court. That motion was denied on 1/31/11.

According to Amnesty International, Finney's case is now before Florida's clemency authorities. So, he may well be next murderer to be executed. Zie: [Amnesty International](#)