

Yahoo! My Yahoo! Mail More

Make Y! My Homepage

New User? Sign Up Sign In Help

YAHOO! GROUPS

Search

WEB SEARCH

REPLAY

FIND THE ONE  
WHO MAKES  
YOU HAPPY.I'M A  W  SEEKING A  M NEAR ZIP: 

See Who's Here

YAHOO!  
PERSON

gojust

Search for other groups...

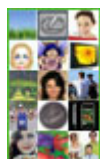
Search

[Home](#)[Messages](#)

Members Only

[Post](#)[Files](#)[Photos](#)[Links](#)[Database](#)[Polls](#)[Calendar](#)[Groups Labs](#)[\(Beta\)](#)[? Already a member?  
Sign in to Yahoo!](#)**Yahoo! Groups Tips****Did you know...**

Message search is now enhanced, find messages faster. Take it for a spin.

**Best of Y! Groups**

Check them out and nominate your group.

**Messages**[Messages Help](#)Message # 

Go

Search: 

Search

[Advanced](#)**Austin American Statesman: Ex-prisons official pleads guilty**[Topic List](#) < [Prev Topic](#) | [Next Topic](#) >[Reply](#) | [Forward](#)< [Prev Message](#) | [Next Message](#) >

Sat Apr 1, 2006 3:58 pm

[Show Message Info](#)

Ex-prisons official pleads guilty in co-worker assaults

Former anti-gang chief Buentello avoids time behind bars with deal on lesser charges.

By Mike Ward

AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

Saturday, April 01, 2006

**"Liz Joblin"**

&lt;elizabeth\_joblin@...&gt;

[lizaustintx](#)

Offline

[Send Email](#)

The Texas prison system's former anti-gang chief pleaded guilty Friday to reduced criminal charges in a deal that allows him to avoid going to prison for sexually assaulting co-workers.

Salvador "Sammy" Buentello, an assistant director of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice who retired under fire in May 2004, pleaded guilty in a Huntsville state court to a felony charge of unlawful restraint and five counts of official oppression, all misdemeanors.

Three felony sexual assault charges were dismissed.

State District Judge Bill McAdams sentenced Buentello to five years' deferred adjudication on the felony charge and a

year's probation on the misdemeanors. He was also fined \$7,000.

The felony charge carried a maximum 10-year prison sentence, the misdemeanors a maximum year each in the county jail.

Under the deferred adjudication agreement, if Buentello is not arrested on or convicted of new charges, he will not have a felony conviction on his record, according to prosecutors.

Walker County Assistant District Attorney Stephanie Stroud said Buentello must undergo psychiatric counseling and a sexual-therapy evaluation but will not have to register as a sex offender.

Buentello, 50, was indicted in Walker County, where the Texas prison system is headquartered, in June 2004 on felony sexual assault charges for attacking three female employees on four occasions. He faced up to 20 years in prison and mandatory registration as a sex offender on those charges.

He was also charged with official oppression, in what prosecutors characterized Friday as a pattern of sexual harassment "involving inappropriate comments, touchings and intimidation to several individuals supervised by Mr. Buentello."

Buentello could not be reached for comment after the sentencing.

His attorney, Hal Ridley, said Buentello was relieved the case was over.

"He and his family want to get on with their life," Ridley said.

Stroud said all six victims agreed to the plea deal.

"Having considered the advantages and disadvantages of a public trial, each victim individually agreed to allow Mr. Buentello to plead guilty without the necessity of a trial," District Attorney David

Weeks said in a statement. "This plea bargain finally vindicates the victims who for so long were trapped in an intimidating work environment. . . . Today also serves as a victory against all those who knew of Mr. Buentello's conduct but consciously disregarded it."

Michelle Lyons, a spokeswoman for the prison system, said the agency was pleased the case has been resolved.

"TDCJ has a zero-tolerance policy regarding sexual harassment," Lyons said.

<[mward@...](#)>; 445-1712

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

[Reply](#)[Forward](#)[< Prev Message](#) | [Next Message >](#)[Expand Messages](#)

Author

[Sort by Date](#)**Austin American Statesman: Ex-prisons official pleads guilty**

Ex-prisons official pleads guilty in co-worker assaults  
Former anti-gang chief Buentello avoids time behind bars with deal on lesser charges. By Mike Ward ...

Liz Joblin  
[lizaustintx](#)



Apr 1, 2006  
3:58 pm

[< Prev Topic](#) | [Next Topic >](#)

Message #

Search:

[Advanced](#)**SPONSOR RESULTS****[Master's Degree in Criminal Justice](#)**

[www.cjmasters.info](#) - What you need to know before you decide on a program. Free report compares program types, costs and income potential.

**[Online Criminal Justice Degree](#)**

[penn-foster.com](#) - Receive your Criminal Justice Degree online at home at your own pace.

**[Want to Be a Cop?](#)**

[degrees-at-home.net](#) - Earn your Criminal Justice Degree Online.

---

Copyright © 2008 Yahoo! Inc. All rights reserved.

[Privacy Policy](#) - [Terms of Service](#) - [Copyright Policy](#) - [Guidelines](#) - [Help](#)