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Confessed slayer given life

WACO, Texas (AP) — A 24-year-old man was sentenced to life imprisonment after he pleaded guilty to murder charges in the deaths of three teen-agers found bound, gagged and stabbed to death in a park near Lake Waco.

Anthony Meléndez, one of four defendants in the case, was sentenced Thursday to two concurrent life terms by State District Judge George Allen.

Testimony in the trial of another defendant, David Wayne Spence, 25, is scheduled to begin Monday. A jury composed of eight women and four men was picked for Spence's trial Thursday afternoon.

Melendez pleaded guilty to the death of Jill Montgomery, 17, of Waxahachie, and Kenneth Franks, 18.

Court officials said Melendez still faces a capital murder charge in the death of Raylene Rice, 17, of Waxahachie.