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Staff

A teen-age Houston gang member who fled from the city after being charged with shooting two young girls in southwest Houston last October is back in custody, police said Tuesday.

When Hector Xavier "Killer" Gomez, now 19, dropped out of sight, he was awaiting trial for a 1992 gang killing. And he had just been charged in an Oct. 2, 1993, shooting episode that left 18-year-old Rani Adenia Goodgame dead and 14-year-old Jessica Uvalle critically wounded.

Late last year, Gomez led a battle for control of La Raza 13, one of the most violent southwest Houston gangs.

His bid for leadership of the gang resulted in it splitting into two factions on Oct. 1. The girls were shot as they sat outside a house in the 6400 block of Grapevine, where the faction at odds with Gomez's group was celebrating, police said.

Investigators said the girls probably were not the target of the shootings but were shot simply because they happened to be there.

Within a week, police had rounded up and jailed at least 30 La Raza 13 members, but Gomez could not be found. Friends said he went to Mexico.

If fear drove him out of Houston, police said love apparently drew Gomez back. Police received several reports of his being spotted at a house on Richfield where his girlfriend lives.

Friends said Gomez intended to stay in Houston only a short time, then return to Mexico with his girlfriend. But he had trouble convincing her to leave her family, they said.

After making several trips by the house and just missing Gomez, police found him Thursday after Crime Stoppers got a tip he was there.

Gomez is charged with murder in the December 1992 death of Carlos Martinez and with murder and attempted capital murder in the Oct. 2 shootings of Goodgame and Uvalle.

Police also are looking for his younger brother, Luis Gomez, and his older brother, Alfonso Gomez, both of whom are wanted in homicide cases.

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