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NEWS RELEASE

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GUILTY PLEA IN 2008 NEW YEAR'S SHOOTING

A man accused of firing a gun into the air and killing two people as he celebrated the new year in January 2008 has pleaded guilty in connection with the deaths.

Pedro Cortez (dob: 02-16-82) pleaded guilty to two counts of *manslaughter* (F4) in Denver District Court this afternoon.

Cortez fired a gun in the direction of a home at 4708 W. 11th Avenue. A single bullet killed 47-year-old Rebecca Yanez and her 11-year-old niece Angelica Martinez as they were sitting together inside the home.

In exchange for his guilty pleas to manslaughter, the remaining charges against him were dropped, including two counts of first-degree murder, child abuse resulting in death, possession of a weapon by a previous offender and illegal discharge of a weapon.

Cortez faces a sentencing range from probation up to 24 years in prison when he is sentenced on July 10, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. in Denver District Courtroom 13.