

# **MARQUIS “MAC” MARTIN CASE BRIEF**

***The only unsolved homicide in Drew County, Arkansas involves a ransom demand, a controversial photo posted by the Sheriff's son, and five years of unanswered questions.***

## **PURPOSE**

I'm asking you to review the verified facts in the Marquis “Mac” Martin homicide and consider using your voice to amplify it publicly. The goal is to increase credible pressure and tip flow in a solvable case that has lingered for years without an arrest.

## **SUMMARY**

Marquis Martin, a 26-year-old father from Drew County, Arkansas, was last captured on surveillance on February 09, 2020 at about 9:21 PM at the Murphy USA in Monticello. He was reported missing days later. On March 07, 2020, his body was found in a creek outside of Wilmar. The death was ruled a homicide caused by a close-range gunshot wound to the head, with gunpowder still present, per reporting tied to autopsy findings.

Years later, the case remains unsolved amid intense public mistrust, a confirmed ransom text sent to his mother, and a confirmed Snapchat photo post tied to then Sheriff Mark Gober's son, Noah Gober, with ongoing dispute about what exactly the image shows. Drew County later publicly acknowledged the damage caused by rumors and stated outside agencies including the FBI were involved at points. KATV and THV11 both continued covering the case as unsolved years later.

## **WHAT IS VERIFIED VS WHAT IS ALLEGED**

I separate facts into three categories so you can see exactly what you would be attaching your name to.

### **A) VERIFIED BY MAINSTREAM REPORTING OR OFFICIAL STATEMENTS**

1. Marquis Martin was 26 and went missing in February 2020.
2. Marquis was last captured on surveillance at Murphy USA at about 9:21 PM on February 09, 2020.
3. His body was found March 07, 2020 in a creek outside Wilmar.
4. Autopsy findings reported publicly: homicide, gunshot wound to the head at close range, and gunpowder present.
5. Sheriff Mark Gober acknowledged there were accusations and rumors about involvement by him or someone close to him, and he denied those rumors, stating rumor spread does not help the case.

6. The case is still described as unsolved in later coverage, including the THV11 “Unsolved” segment.
7. This is/was the only unsolved homicide in Drew County, AR. This was confirmed by Mark Gober himself in a news article.
8. The family publicly described a ransom text demanding \$7,000.
9. The family publicly described a photo circulating during the missing period that they believe shows Marquis under a blanket, and this photo became a focal point of public protest.

## B) CONFIRMED EVENTS WITH LIMITED PUBLIC DOCUMENTATION OF SOME SUBDETAILS

These are confirmed as occurring, but certain investigative details are not public.

### 1. RANSOM TEXT

**Confirmed:** Marquis’s mother received a ransom text demanding \$7,000 and warning her not to contact police.

*“This is to let you know that Mack was kidnapped by myself and my men, and we demand a ransom payment of \$7000 before we release him back to you alive. You are warned not to tell anyone or the cops about this, or He dies. Do not act smart; I am too old for games; if you want this done with peace, I’m cool with it, but if you are calling the cops in, I’m fine too. The cops are no threat to me. And I don’t think I need to show you how dangerous I could be by hurting him. Choose wisely. I have my personal reasons for taking this long before contacting his family.”*

**Not publicly confirmed in an official report:** whether the sender was traced, whether devices were seized, whether subpoenas were served, whether the text was authenticated for evidentiary use, or what the investigative conclusion was.

### 2. SNAPCHAT PHOTO POST

**Confirmed:** the Snapchat photo was posted by Noah Gober and Mark Gober confirmed the posting. This photo showed an oversized stuffed monkey on the couch of a camper, a blanket on the couch beside that monkey, and text that read, “Can I help you ni\*\*\*”. This was posted two days after Marquis went missing.

**Confirmed by mainstream reporting:** the family says a photo circulated during the missing period, they believe Marquis is under a blanket deceased, and the image became central to calls for accountability.

**Disputed element:** whether Marquis’s body is actually visible under the blanket in the image.

## C) COMMUNITY ALLEGATIONS THAT MUST BE LABELED AS ALLEGATIONS

These items are widely discussed but need to be framed carefully unless backed by records.

## 1. **COVER-UP CLAIMS INVOLVING MARK GOBER, NOAH GOBER, OR OTHERS**

There is longstanding public mistrust and public accusation. Sheriff Mark Gober publicly acknowledged rumors about involvement by him or someone close to him and denied them.

If discussed publicly by a third party, it should be framed as: allegations exist, law enforcement denies, and no arrest has been made.

## 2. **SPECIFIC NAMED SUSPECT CLAIMS**

I do not name suspects as fact without documentation.

### **VERIFIED TIMELINE ANCHORS**

- February 09, 2020
  - Marquis is captured on surveillance at Murphy USA around 9:21 PM.
- March 07, 2020
  - Marquis is found deceased in a creek outside Wilmar.
- June 04, 2021
  - KATV reports the family is focused on a circulating photo they believe is connected. The family states they believe Marquis is under a blanket. KATV restates autopsy detail including close-range gunshot and gunpowder presence.
- February 11, 2022
  - KATV reports the case remains unsolved nearly two years later. Sheriff Mark Gober addresses rumors and says they hurt the case. KATV states the FBI was involved to assist.
- July 26, 2023
  - THV11 "Unsolved" segment reports the ransom text demand for \$7,000, and continues framing the case as unsolved.

### **WHY THIS CASE IS STILL ALIVE**

1. It is a confirmed homicide with a clear manner of death and a defined last-known surveillance anchor.
2. There is a confirmed ransom demand communicated to the mother, which is inherently investigatively significant.
3. The case has had years of public mistrust and rumor contamination, which is exactly when a credible former investigator's voice can redirect the public toward useful tips and away from defamation.
4. It has remained unsolved despite the passage of time and mention of outside agency involvement at points.

## **INVESTIGATIVE POINTS**

- Last verified digital anchor: Murphy USA surveillance timestamp.
- Body recovery location: creek outside Wilmar.
- Cause and manner: close-range gunshot wound to the head, homicide.
- Rumor environment acknowledged by law enforcement as harmful.
- Confirmed ransom text: suggests offender confidence, manipulation, and possibly a phone trail.

## **OPEN QUESTIONS**

These are not accusations. These are investigative gaps the public keeps circling.

1. Who last had confirmed contact with Marquis after the Murphy USA timestamp, and what was the documented path after that?
2. What was preserved from the first 48 to 72 hours, including digital evidence and witness canvass?
3. Was the ransom number subpoenaed and analyzed, and if so, what was the outcome?
4. What is the current interagency status today, and what case resources are actively applied?
5. What is the investigative interpretation of the circulating photo, separate from public opinion?

## **CONTENT ETHICS AND SAFETY COMMITMENTS**

- I do not state allegations as fact.
- I do not name suspects without documentation.
- I separate verified reporting from allegations clearly.
- The goal is justice and credible tips, not spectacle.

## **FOR TRANSPARENCY**

There has been resistance to public awareness surrounding this case. I and others who have covered or amplified Marquis Martin's story have received threats of legal action. To date, none of these threats have resulted in formal filings, nor have they identified specific defamatory statements.

I include this only to be transparent about the environment surrounding the case. It has not deterred responsible reporting, and all coverage I engage in remains grounded in verified facts, clearly labeled allegations, and good-faith questions aimed at accountability and tip generation.

## **SOURCE SNAPSHOT FOR QUICK VERIFICATION**

- KATV, Jun 04, 2021: [family says photo circulated, belief Marquis under blanket, autopsy details repeated.](#)
- KATV, Feb 11, 2022: [two years later, still unsolved, sheriff addresses rumors, mentions FBI involvement.](#)
- The Black Wall Street Times, May 2022: [Marquis Martin was killed 2 years ago and his family still doesn't know why](#)
- THV11 Unsolved, Jul 26, 2023: [ransom text demand for \\$7,000, case framed as unsolved.](#)
- Law Enforcement Update, February 2023: [Marquis Martin case turned over to State Police | The Advance-Monticellonian](#)
- On AR Watch, October 2023: [Corruption, Racism, Murder: What you should know about Drew County - On AR Watch](#)
- Law Enforcement Update, February 2025: [Update on Marquis Martin investigation | The Advance-Monticellonian](#)
- MyArkLAMiss.com, March 2025: [Five years later: The unsolved murder of Marquis Martin](#)
- Change.Org: [Petition · JUSTICE FOR MARQUIS 'Mack' MARTIN! IMMEDIATE RECUSAL OF MARK GOBER SHERIFF, MONTICELLO, AR - Monticello, United States · Change.org](#)
- Navigating Advocacy: [Arkansas: Marquis Martin — Navigating Advocacy Podcast](#)

## **END GOAL**

Increase credible attention and tip flow while keeping the public discussion factual, responsible, and focused on accountability.

***This brief is not intended to accuse any individual of a crime, but to accurately document the public record and identify investigative questions that remain unanswered.***