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Guard Acquitted in McLouth Teen Shooting

(AP) Officials say a hotel security guard who shot a McLouth, Kansas teen vacationing in Costa Rica two years ago has been acquitted of homicide charges in his second trial.

Jorge Guevara fired on Justin David Johnston as the 16-year-old tried to get into a northern Costa Rica hotel from a neighboring property early on the morning of June 2, 2011.

Guevara said he fired a warning shot when he saw someone he thought was a burglar. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison but won a new trial on appeal and was acquitted this week by a three-judge panel. Judges said he was legitimately confused by Johnston's attempt to enter from a nearby property instead of the hotel's main entrance.

Johnston's mother says her family is "devastated" by the decision.

The decision is expected to be appealed by Costa Rican prosecutors.

Associated Press