

# Shooter pleads guilty to blinding Brazilian visitor

**DARYL SLADE  
AND STEPHANE MASSINON**  
CALGARY HERALD

A man who twice fired a prohibited handgun during disputes with acquaintances, once missing his target but striking and permanently blinding Brazilian student Jose Neto, faces being declared a dangerous offender.

The Crown advised provincial court Judge Catherine Skene of an application to have Roland Ashley Warawa deemed dangerous, after Warawa pleaded guilty to five charges on Wednesday.

Warawa, 30, will be assessed by a psychiatrist over the next 60 days while in custody and a report will be filed.

"We will then determine if Mr. Warawa meets the standard to be declared dangerous," Crown prosecutor Gord Wong said outside court.

If declared dangerous, Warawa would be imprisoned for an indeterminate period.

Warawa pleaded guilty to two counts

of discharging a firearm with intent to wound or endanger life, one count each of aggravated assault,

possessing a prohibited firearm with ammunition, and possessing a firearm while prohibited by the courts.

Elisia Teixeira, president of the Brazilian Association of Alberta, said Neto was visiting Brazil and she could not reach him.

"The guy pleading guilty doesn't change what happened to Neto," she said.

The Brazilian student is in good spirits, she said, and is

learning to cope as a blind person.

"He's a bright guy, so he's always positive."

Warawa was originally charged with attempted murder, but Wong said the Crown faced difficulty proving intent to kill.

On Sept. 16, Warawa got into a confrontation downtown at Circle Park, just east of James Short Parkade, and shot at Michael Martel with a .22-calibre handgun.

According to witnesses, Warawa and his girlfriend then walked away, aware the bullet had missed Martel but unaware it struck Neto, 24.

The student had been sitting with his girlfriend, Roberta Porto, some 30 to 40 metres away.

Warawa will be back in court on July 24.



**Jose Neto**

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