



GREGORY D. TOTTE
District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

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OXNARD MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO 2013 SANTA PAULA MURDER

VENTURA, California – District Attorney Gregory D. Totten announced today that Andres Rodriguez (DOB 12/14/84), of Oxnard, pled guilty to first-degree murder with a special circumstance of kidnapping, premeditated and deliberate attempted murder, and admitted using a gun in the commission of all the crimes. Rodriguez’s accomplice, Melissa Salazar (DOB 2/17/78), of Santa Paula, pled guilty to kidnapping and robbery, and admitted a prior strike conviction.

On July 17, 2013, Rodriguez and Salazar kidnapped a female victim at gunpoint and forced her to divulge the location of a man and woman who stole property from Rodriguez and Salazar earlier in the day. The female victim directed Rodriguez and Salazar to a home in Santa Paula where Rodriguez, armed with a semi-automatic pistol and a ballistic vest, entered and located the couple who had barricaded themselves in a bathroom. Rodriguez fired multiple shots through the bathroom door, and then entered the bathroom as the male victim escaped out a window. Rodriguez then shot the female victim in the head. After releasing the female kidnap victim, Rodriguez and Salazar fled to Mexico. They were arrested by detectives from the Santa Paula Police Department on September 10, 2013, with the assistance of the United States Marshals Service.

Rodriguez and Salazar will be sentenced on November 2, 2017, at 8:30 a.m. in courtroom 48 of the Ventura Superior Court, County of Ventura. Rodriguez will be sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Salazar faces a sentence of 20 years in prison.

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The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is the public prosecutor for the county's 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 280 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and other professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.

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