



GREGORY D. TOTTEN
District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

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Charges Filed in Stabbing Death of Simi Woman

VENTURA, California – District Attorney Gregory D. Totten announced that Euren Balbuena (DOB 11/29/90), of Simi Valley, was charged with the murder of Zaira Patino, of Simi Valley, which occurred on February 27, 2020. The complaint charges one count of murder and a special allegation that Balbuena personally used a knife during the commission of the crime. Balbuena has also been charged with assault with a deadly weapon causing great bodily injury for the assault on Ms. Patino's mother, Ariadna Avetisyan, of Sun Valley, which also occurred on February 27, 2020.

Balbuena appeared in court on March 2, 2020. The arraignment was continued to March 3, 2020, at 1:30 p.m. in courtroom 13 of the Ventura County Superior Court. Balbuena is currently in custody at the Ventura County jail with bail set at \$3 million.

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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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