



ERIK NASARENKO
VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
NEWS RELEASE



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Murder Charge Filed in Death of Simi Valley Resident Rachel Castillo
Case #: 2022029127

VENTURA, Calif. - District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Zarbab Ali (DOB 01/04/97), of Hawthorne, has been charged with the murder of Simi Valley resident Rachel Castillo.

The murder charge was filed this morning, November 15, 2022, in the Ventura County Superior Court. Ali was also charged with a special allegation of lying in wait and personal use of a knife.

On November 10, 2022, the victim's sister called 9-1-1 after returning to a Simi Valley apartment she shared with Ms. Castillo. Officers with the Simi Valley Police Department (SVPD) say evidence of a violent attack was found at the scene and officers suspected a crime involving serious injury had occurred. Ms. Castillo was not at the apartment but her personal belongings, including cell phone, car keys, and car were present. On Sunday, November 13, 2022, the body of Ms. Castillo was found in a remote part of the Antelope Valley.

After a thorough investigation by the SVPD Detective Bureau, officers arrested Ali in connection to Rachel Castillo's murder on Sunday, November 13, 2022, at his parents' home in Victorville.

"This was a young mother with a very bright future who was working on behalf of a local non-profit provider while attending graduate school," said Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko. "Rachel's murder is a tragedy for Ventura County and my office will be seeking justice for her two young children and entire family."

Senior Deputy District Attorney Courtney Lewis, a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office Major Crimes, Homicides Unit is the prosecutor assigned to the case.

Ali is scheduled to be arraigned today, November 15, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. in courtroom 13.

Following the arraignment, around 2:30 p.m., District Attorney Erik Nasarenko will hold a press conference. Credentialed media can gather outside the District Attorney's Office on the third floor of the Ventura County Government Center, Hall of Justice to be escorted to our media room.

Defendant Information:

Zarbab Ali
Hawthorne, California

Charges:

- Murder - PC 187
- Lying in wait - Special Allegation - 190.2(a) (15)
- Knife enhancement - 12022(b)1)

