



**ERIK NASARENKO**  
VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
**NEWS RELEASE**



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Contact: Joey Buttitta  
Title: Communications Manager/PIO  
Phone: (805) 767-3400  
Email: [Joey.Buttitta@ventura.org](mailto:Joey.Buttitta@ventura.org)

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## Thousand Oaks Man Convicted of 2021 Christmas Eve Murder

VENTURA, Calif. – District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Saul C Nava (DOB 04/30/00), of Thousand Oaks, was convicted by a jury of nine felony counts including the first-degree murder and torture of his girlfriend, Alisen Takacs-Escobar. Nava was also found guilty of torturing and kidnapping a previous girlfriend who survived his abuse. A judge will decide several special allegations tomorrow during a court trial. The allegations include whether the crimes involved great violence and if the victims were vulnerable.

Senior Deputy District Attorney David Russell, a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office Major Crimes Homicide Unit, prosecuted the case.

"Although this result cannot erase the immeasurable pain the defendant inflicted on the victims and their families, we hope that this brings some measure of closure to see him held accountable for his horrific crimes," Mr. Russell said.

On December 24, 2021, Nava called 911 after days of beating and torturing Ms. Takacs-Escobar in a studio apartment they shared in Thousand Oaks. Deputies with the Ventura County Sheriff's Office found the deceased victim with injuries all over her body. She suffered from extensive bruising, the top of her head had a large laceration, and degrading words were newly tattooed on the center of her chest. Nava was arrested at the scene. In the apartment, deputies located tattoo equipment, baseball bats, a hammer, and a screwdriver which were used on Ms. Takacs-Escobar. Nava's cell phone was also located in the apartment. Videos on the phone, taken hours before Ms. Takacs-Escobar's death, show Nava taunting her and displaying no concern for her worsening condition.

While investigating the death of Ms. Takacs-Escobar, an ex-girlfriend who had survived Nava's abuse was identified. Nava met this additional victim when they were teenagers and their relationship escalated quickly. Nava brought her into his home, confined her to a closet, and beat

her. At one point, she tried to run away but Nava found her and threatened her with a knife until she got into his vehicle. The victim got pregnant when she was 17. Nava punched her in the stomach and convinced her to get an abortion. She was punched in the face, choked, and secretly filmed having sex with Nava. The abuse finally stopped when Nava started dating Ms. Takacs-Escobar during the summer of 2021.

**Case: 2021032886**

**Defendant Information:**

Saul C Nava (DOB 04/30/2000)

Thousand Oaks

**Charges convicted of:**

- PC 187(a) – First-degree murder
- PC 205 – Aggravated mayhem
- PC 206 – Torture
- PC 207(a) – Kidnapping
- PC 245(a)(1) – Assault with deadly weapon
- (3 counts) PC 273.5(a) – Inflict corporal injury to current/former spouse/cohabitant/fiancé
- PC 311.11(a) – Possession or control of child pornography

**Special Allegations for court trial:**

- CRC 4.421(a)(1) – The crime involved great violence
- CRC 4.421(a)(3) – Victim was vulnerable
- CRC 4.421(a)(8) – The manner in which the crime was carried indicates planning, sophistication, or professionalism
- CRC 4.421(b)(1) – Defendant has engaged in violent conduct
- CRC 4.421(a)(2) – The defendant was armed with and used a weapon

