



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

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Defendant Extradited from Mexico in 1998 Ventura Murder Case

VENTURA, Calif. – Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Manuel Alejandro Vasquez (DOB 02/10/78), a defendant in the 1998 murder of Felipe Arambula, has been extradited from Mexico. Vasquez is charged with murder, attempted kidnapping, first-degree residential burglary, and false imprisonment by violence. He also faces a special allegation of murder during a kidnapping. Vasquez made his first court appearance in Ventura County Superior Court on April 17, 2025. He fled to Mexico before charges were filed for the 1998 murder.

Senior Deputy District Attorney John Barrick, a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office Major Crimes Homicide Unit, is prosecuting the case.

On June 13, 1998, Felipe Arambula was shot and killed inside his Ventura home by two unknown assailants. Investigators with the Ventura Police Department later identified Vasquez and David Hampton as the individuals responsible. The investigation revealed that Vasquez and Hampton were hired by Jose Vazquez to kidnap and extort money from Arambula over an alleged unpaid debt. During the confrontation, Hampton fatally shot Arambula with a 9-millimeter semiautomatic firearm allegedly belonging to Manuel Vasquez.

Both Jose Vazquez and Hampton were tried and convicted of murder in 1999. Each was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole. Manuel Vasquez, however, fled the country prior to being charged and remained a fugitive until he was apprehended in Mexico in 2023. His extradition to Ventura County occurred on April 16, 2025.

The arraignment for Vasquez was continued to May 21, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in courtroom 12 of the Ventura County Superior Court. He remains in custody without bail.

Case: 1998007943

Defendant Information:

Manuel Alejandro Vasquez (DOB 02/10/78)
Winnetka, Calif.

Charges:

- PC 187(a) – Murder
- PC 664/207(a) – Attempted kidnapping
- PC 459 – First-degree residential burglary
- Pc 236 – False imprisonment by violence

Special allegations:

- PC 190.2(a)(17)(B) – Murder while engaged in kidnapping