



ERIK NASARENKO

VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

NEWS RELEASE



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Couple Sentenced for Murdering Boyfriend's Former Girlfriend in Oxnard

VENTURA, Calif. – District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Margarita Jimenez (DOB 02/03/91), of Oxnard, and Jorge Garfias (DOB 08/31/87), of Ventura, have been sentenced for the first-degree murder of Yanelly Vargas. Jimenez was sentenced to 80 years to life in state prison. Garfias was sentenced to 25 years to life behind bars. Both were previously convicted by a jury on September 5, 2025. The jury also found true the special allegation that Jimenez personally and intentionally discharged a firearm. Jimenez and Garfias were found not guilty of kidnapping the victim. On September 8, 2025, Jimenez admitted her strike prior, serious felony prior, and other aggravating factors. The court found aggravating factors for Garfias true, including that he took advantage of a position of trust.

Senior Deputy District Attorney John Barrick, a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office Homicides Unit, and Deputy District Attorney Hyla Schneir, a member of the DA's Domestic Violence Unit, prosecuted the case.

"Yanelly's family and friends addressed the court and described their agony and how the defendants' violent acts shattered their lives," Ms. Schneir said. "While no sentence can undo the harm caused or bring Yanelly back, we hope the court's decision to impose the maximum sentences provides a measure of justice and a sense of closure as they continue to grieve and heal."

Just before midnight on March 17, 2024, Oxnard Police Department officers responded to a reported fight between a man and woman outside a business near East Wooley Road and Industrial Avenue. During the 911 call, a gunshot was heard. Officers arrived to find 35-year-old Yanelly Vargas unresponsive with a gunshot wound. She was transported to Ventura County Medical Center, where she later died.

Investigators determined that Ms. Vargas had been lured outside of an Oxnard bar via text message sent by Garfias, her ex-boyfriend. Garfias and his new girlfriend, Jimenez, drove Ms. Vargas to an alley in an industrial area nearby before beating her. Ms. Vargas tried to walk away as Garfias and Jimenez followed her in Garfias' truck. Jimenez was captured on surveillance footage exiting the truck and running after Vargas with a handgun. Jimenez shot Ms. Vargas once in the chest and attempted to shoot a second time before fleeing the scene with Garfias in the truck.

At the scene, investigators found a blood trail, a spent 9mm shell casing, and acrylic nails that were later matched to Jimenez at the time of her arrest. A blood-stained yellow rope was also found near the victim. An autopsy confirmed Ms. Vargas died from a gunshot wound to the chest and had also suffered multiple blunt force injuries and signs of strangulation.

Jimenez and Garfias were arrested on April 3, 2024.

Case: 2024008866

Margarita Jimenez (DOB 02/03/91)

Oxnard

Charge convicted of:

- PC 187(a) – First-degree murder

Special allegations found true:

- PC 12022.53(d) – Personal and intentional discharge of a firearm
- PC 1170(h)(3) – Prior serious or violent felony
- PC 667(a)(1) – Serious felony prior
- CRC 4.421(a)(1) – The crime involved great violence
- CRC 4.421(a)(2) – The defendant was armed with and used a weapon
- CRC 4.421(b)(1) – Defendant has engaged in violent conduct
- CRC 4.421(b)(2) – The defendant's prior convictions as an adult are numerous or of increasing seriousness
- CRC 4.421(b)(3) – the defendant has served a prior term in prison

Jorge Garfias (DOB 08/31/87)

Ventura

Charge convicted of:

- PC 187(a) – First-degree murder

Special allegations found true:

- CRC 4.421(a)(1) – The crime involved great violence
- CRC 4.421(a)(11) – The defendant took advantage of a position of trust

