ERIK NASARENKO
VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
NEWS RELEASE

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Man Who Fled to Mexico After 1998 Murder Sentenced to 25 Years to Life

VENTURA, Calif. – Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Manuel Alejandro Vasquez (DOB 02/10/78) was sentenced to 25 years to life in state prison for the 1998 killing of Felipe Arambula in Ventura. Vasquez previously pled guilty on September 30, 2026, to first-degree murder.

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

"Despite waiting nearly 30 years for justice, the victim's family never wavered in their belief that one day all the men responsible for the victim's murder would be successfully prosecuted," Mr. Barrick said. "Special thanks to the Ventura Police Department for their dedication and hard work regarding this case, which would not have been solved but for their tireless efforts."

On June 13, 1998, Arambula was shot and killed inside his Ventura home by two men. Investigators with the Ventura Police Department later identified Vasquez and David Hampton as the individuals responsible. The investigation determined 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.

Hampton and Jose Vazquez were convicted of murder in 1999, and each was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. Manuel Vasquez fled to Mexico before charges were filed and remained a fugitive until he was apprehended in 2023. He was extradited to Ventura County in April 2025.

Case: 1998007943
Court #: CR44629

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

Charges pled guilty to:
• PC 187(a) – Murder



The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is the public prosecutor for the county's 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 300 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.