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**NEWS RELEASE**  
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## **COUPLE CHARGED AND ARRESTED IN 2012 DESERT HOT SPRINGS MURDER**

INDIO – A couple charged in the 2012 murder of the woman’s twin brother in Desert Hot Springs were arrested at their Palm Springs home today, Aug. 31, 2017.

Ines Patrisia Mendez, DOB: 2-19-90; and her boyfriend, Shanen Ryan Riley, DOB: 8-22-89, were each charged on Aug. 30, 2017, with one count of murder. Mendez is also charged with one count of elder abuse of a dependent adult causing great bodily injury or death. They are scheduled to be arraigned on the afternoon of Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017, at the Larson Justice Center in Indio. They are being held in lieu of \$1 million each at the Larry D. Smith Correctional Facility.

They were arrested at about 7:30 a.m. at their residence on San Antonio Road in Palm Springs by Riverside County District Attorney’s Investigator Raul Sandoval and Desert Hot Springs police detectives. DA Inv. Sandoval first investigated the death when he was a Desert Hot Springs police detective in 2012 before coming to the DA’s Office.

It has been just a couple weeks to the day five years ago when, on Aug. 7, 2012, Mendez’s twin brother, Antonio Mendez, 22, was pronounced dead at an apartment on Calle Las Tiendas in Desert Hot Springs.

The investigation revealed that Antonio was developmentally challenged and unable to care for himself. His sister was his primary care provider and Antonio had lived with her and Riley for about a year before his death. Police were called to the home by Riley who told a 911 operator that Antonio was not breathing. When police arrived, they found noticeable injuries on Antonio’s body and he weighed only 109 pounds. At the time of his death, detectives were told by Mendez that Antonio fell down often and had surgery a couple months before his death for a broken jaw, which had to be wired closed, resulting in his only being able to be fed protein drinks and vitamins.

A recent re-evaluation of the evidence in the case as well as follow-up interviews led to the filing of charges and the arrests.

The case, INF1701400, is being prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney AC Hester.

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