



Riverside County District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

PAUL E. ZELLERBACH
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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John Hall
Senior Public Information Specialist
Contact: 951.955.8662

FUGITIVE WANTED IN A 2008 TEMECULA MURDER HAS BEEN CAPTURED

RIVERSIDE – Today, March 19, 2014, a fugitive wanted for a 2008 murder at a Temecula apartment complex has been captured and returned to Riverside County to be prosecuted.

Following an investigation by the FBI's Inland Regional Apprehension Team (IRAT), the fugitive, Jose Carmelo Torres, DOB: 7-16-83, was located in Tijuana, Mexico in July 2013. He has been in jail since that time in Mexico City during his extradition proceedings. Torres was extradited and returned today, March 19, 2014, to Los Angeles by IRAT members, then turned over to Riverside County sheriff's investigators.

On Jan. 24, 2008, the Riverside County District Attorney's Office charged Torres in case SWF024485 with the murder of Michael Montanez. Torres is also accused of personally using a firearm causing death.

According to an investigation by the Riverside County sheriff's Central Homicide Unit, on the evening of Jan. 13, 2008, the victim and three friends arrived at Montanez's apartment complex, Sage Canyon Apartments at 42220 Moraga Road in Temecula, after spending the day at a local sports bar watching football.

Torres and four people with him had arrived at the same apartment complex. Torres and the victim spoke briefly in the parking lot before Torres reportedly pulled a handgun and shot Montanez in the upper body. According to homicide investigators, the shooting happened within seconds of the two men speaking to each other and was unprovoked by the victim.

Subsequent investigation led investigators to Torres as the alleged shooter and on Jan. 24, 2008, a Riverside County Superior Court judge issued a no-bail warrant for the arrest of Torres.