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NEWS RELEASE
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JURY DECIDES DEATH FOR PERRIS MAN CONVICTED OF THREE RANDOM MURDERS

MURRIETA – After less than one day of deliberations, a Riverside County jury has determined that a Perris man should be put to death for the brutal stabbings of three random victims.

The decision by the jurors, read at about 2:15 p.m. on March 22, 2017, comes exactly two weeks after the same jury found David Rey Contreras, DOB: 3-16-88, guilty on all counts.

It also took jurors less than a day of deliberating to convict Contreras on March 8, 2017, of three counts of murder. Jurors found true the enhancements on all three counts that he personally used a deadly weapon, that being a knife. The jury also found true a special circumstance allegation of multiple murders. That special circumstance allegation made Contreras eligible for the death penalty, which Riverside County District Attorney Mike Hestrin sought in this case.

Contreras is now scheduled to return before Judge John Monterosso at the Southwest Justice Center in Murrieta on May 12, 2017, at which time the judge will render his sentence for the serial murderer.

Jurors found Contreras guilty of the December 2012 murder of a man whose body was found in a Perris field and the February 2013 murders of a woman and her daughter in Nuevo. All three murders were random and Contreras had no connection to any of the victims.

Contreras was convicted of the Dec. 29, 2012, murder of Jose Apreza, 53, of Perris. Apreza was reported missing by his wife that same day after he took his dog out for a walk early that morning and never came back home. Apreza's body was later found in a large open field in the area of Evans Road and Orange Avenue in Perris. Apreza was stabbed about two dozen times.

Jurors also found Contreras guilty of the Feb. 4, 2013, murders of Maria Gonzalez, 51, and her 25-year-old daughter, Consuelo Gonzalez. The two women left their Nuevo home about 5 p.m. to go for a walk. A short time later, the Riverside County Sheriff's Department received a call of a stabbing on Central Avenue, between Ramona and Rosary avenues. Deputies found both women lying in the street. Consuelo Gonzalez was pronounced dead at the scene and Maria Gonzalez died while being transported in an ambulance to a nearby hospital. Coroner's autopsies showed both victims had multiple stab wounds to their bodies.

The case, SWF1302049, was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Daniel DeLimon.

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