



RIVERSIDE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
**NEWS RELEASE**  
MIKE HESTRIN, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

WEBSITE: WWW.RIVCODA.ORG

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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CONTACT: JOHN HALL  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY INFORMATION SPECIALIST  
951.955.8662

**MURRIETA MAN SENTENCED FOR THE MURDER  
OF HIS WIFE WHO WAS AN ESCONDIDO POLICE OFFICER**

**MURRIETA** – A Murrieta man was sentenced today, Dec. 4, 2015, to 48 years to life in prison for the murder last year of his wife, Laura Perez, who was an Escondido police officer.

Freddy Perez Rodas, DOB: 10-14-86, was convicted by a Riverside County jury on Oct. 7, 2015, of second-degree murder and arson. They jurors also found true that Perez Rodas personally used a firearm causing death.

At the Southwest Justice Center in Murrieta today, Judge John Monterosso gave Perez Rodas the maximum sentence possible of 48 years to life. He sentenced Perez Rodas to 15 years to life for second-degree murder, 25 years to life for the use of a firearm enhancement, and eight years in prison for the arson.

As he rendered the sentence, the judge called the actions of Perez Rodas “callous and cold”. Monterosso also talked about Perez Rodas’ testimony during the trial. The judge said he believed the defendant showed no remorse and described his testimony about what happened as “an arrogant justification”.

During the sentencing hearing, Escondido police Capt. Michael Loarie addressed the court and said Laura Perez was “destined for greatness” with the department.

On July 23, 2014, Perez Rodas called 911 to report a fire at his Murrieta home and told dispatchers that his wife might still be inside. Murrieta fire personnel determined that the blaze had been intentionally set.

Police found that Laura Perez was not in the home and also had not been present at a meeting that afternoon at the Escondido Police Department -- something authorities at the department said was completely out of character for her.

Subsequent investigation led Murrieta police detectives to a storage unit in Moreno Valley which had been rented by Perez Rodas. Inside they found the victim’s body. They also found two loaded handguns, about \$100,000 cash, passports, and a pick and shovel.

A coroner’s autopsy revealed the victim had been shot three times, including once at very close range in the back.

The case, SWF1500424, was prosecuted by Chief Deputy District Attorney Michael Cabral.

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