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September 25, 2023
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Approved by CJZ
Press Release #23-54

Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) Denied Parole for Convicted Murderer Maricruz Galaviz
CDC #W99772; Court Case number BF107032A

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) denied release from prison to convicted murderer Maricruz Galaviz, age 46. On September 21, 2023, BPH found that Galaviz poses a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. This hearing was Galaviz's first parole hearing with BPH. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Supervising Deputy District Attorney David McKillop.

On December 2, 2004, Galaviz pleaded guilty to murder in the first degree and was later sentenced to 25 years to life in state prison. Galaviz admitted she had been associated with gangs in and out of prison and court records confirm she was previously convicted of possession of narcotics for sale, possession of narcotics, providing false identification to a police officer, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

On July 14, 2004, Galaviz was told by Antonia Salazar that the victim had stolen drugs from Crystal DeLeon and that someone was going to shoot up their house if they did not take the victim to DeLeon. Once at DeLeon's residence, Galaviz, DeLeon, Salazar, and Robert Vallejo beat the victim, beat her face with a shoe, burned her with cigarettes, placed a plastic bag in victim's mouth, choked her with a plastic bag in her mouth, gagged her, beat her with an extension cord, and kicked her face in. The victim was beaten and tortured for over six hours until she suffocated to death. After the murder the victim was placed in a suitcase and moved to a garage where she was later found by law enforcement inside of a barrel. According to Galaviz, the plan was to put cement inside the barrel and throw her into a body of water.

Kern County District Attorney's Office asked BPH to deny parole for seven years, but BPH only denied Galaviz's parole for three years and stated that her case would be automatically reviewed for a possible new hearing in less than three years.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the release saying, “Galaviz has only served 19 years of her 25 years to life sentence. Sadly, California laws are allowing for murderers to earn up to 33.3% for good conduct credit, meaning for every two days in prison an inmate receives three days counted towards their time in prison custody.”

Maricruz Galaviz:

