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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Approved by: CJZ  
Press Release #25-90

**Governor Newsom Agrees with District Attorney's Position and Reverses Grant of Parole to  
Convicted Murderer Maricruz Galaviz**

*CDC #W99772; Kern County Court Case #BF107032A*

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced that Governor Newsom reversed a decision made by the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH). On April 17, 2025, BPH granted release to convicted murderer Maricruz Galaviz, age 47, over the objection of the District Attorney's Office. However, on July 16, 2025, Governor Newsom reversed that decision.

Galaviz is serving a 25 year to life sentence for the murder of 17-year-old Amanda Zubia. In 2004, Galaviz and her crime partners brutally killed the victim by beating her, burning her with cigarettes, and choking her by placing a plastic bag down her throat that was covered with insect repellent. The victim was discovered encased in cement inside a barrel found at an East Bakersfield home. During the investigation, disposable cameras were found with photos of the individuals participating in the torture that lasted several hours.<sup>1</sup>

When an inmate is granted parole, the decision does not become final until BPH reviews it (up to 120 days), as well as the Governor (an additional 30 days). An inmate will not be released until both reviews are completed. The Governor may reverse or modify a grant of parole in a murder case up to 30 days from the date the Governor receives notice of the grant.

The Governor normally receives the grant from the Decision Review Unit of the Board within 120 days after the grant of parole. In this case, the decision to reverse the grant of parole was made by the Governor in approximately 90 days.

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<sup>1</sup>Refer to [KCDA Press Release 25-40](#).

There is no statutory requirement for dictating when the inmate should receive a new hearing after a grant of parole is reversed but BPH typically schedules a subsequent parole hearing 18 months from the date of the inmate's prior hearing.

The Governor's denial statement agreed with the position taken by Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie who argued for a denial of parole at the April parole hearing. The denial notice included information from the 2025 parole hearing, "when asked to explain the circumstances and her causative factors for the crime further, Ms. Galaviz told the panel that she was an angry person at that time, wanted to be feared, and was upset because she believed the victim had stolen drugs. This explanation demonstrates that she has additional work to do in order to understand the factors that led her to commit such a violent crime."

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented; "We were deeply disturbed by the Parole Board's decision to release a murderer whose actions were both heinous and heartless. The victim's family rightfully expressed profound outrage, feeling that justice had not been served. The community was outraged and demanded accountability and a reversal of this decision. Today marks a significant victory in our ongoing fight to ensure that Amanda Zubia receives the justice she rightfully deserves."

Maricruz Galaviz:



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<sup>1</sup>Refer to [KCDA Press Release 25-40](#).