



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY COUNTY OF KERN

CIVIC CENTER JUSTICE BUILDING
1215 TRUXTUN AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93301
(661) 868-2340, FAX: (661) 868-2700

ANDREA S. KOHLER
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

JOSEPH A. KINZEL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:
Gina Pearl
(661) 868-2350

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Re: Trial Murder Verdict: Adam Barness and Manpreet Sidhu: BF 172396 A/B

Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a verdict in a significant murder prosecution today. On September 24, 2021, a Kern County jury found both Adam Barness and Manpreet Sidhu guilty of first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder in the 2018 death of Evmir Miraflores. The case was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Gina Pearl.

In the morning hours of January 16, 2018, an officer of the California Highway Patrol initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle for going 74 miles per hour in a 55mph zone. The vehicle was headed southbound on Hwy 65, near Lerdo Highway in Kern County. During the traffic stop, the officer learned that the vehicle was reported stolen out of Los Angeles County. Barness (the driver), and Sidhu (the rear passenger), were ordered out of the vehicle. The victim, Elvin Mvmir Miraflores, was positioned in the front passenger seat of the vehicle, seat belted in, the seat partially reclined, with a hat lowered over his face. Barness and Sidhu falsely claimed that Miraflores was merely asleep. When officers attempted 'awaken' Miraflores, they quickly learned that he was in fact deceased, and upon further inspection noted substantial trauma to the Miraflores' neck, which an autopsy confirmed was related to the severe strangulation that caused of Miraflores' death.

During a search of the vehicle, officers located gloves, a metal wire, a large shovel and a full gas can inside the vehicle. Both Barness and Sidhu repeatedly lied to law enforcement and claimed to know nothing about Miraflores's death. Subsequent investigation revealed Barness was the beneficiary of Miraflores's life insurance policy and that his DNA was located on Miraflores's facial area. Sidhu's DNA was located inside the gloves and on the ends metal wire which was used to strangle Miraflores.

The homicide case was investigated by the Kern County Sheriff's Department

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the conviction, stating: "Active traffic enforcement can sometimes interrupt major crimes in process. In this case, the evidence showed that both Barness and Sidhu conspired and committed the murder and were attempting to dispose of the victim's body when their plot was interrupted, of all things, by a speeding ticket. The Kern Regional Crime Lab successfully

analyzed key evidence that provided proof of Barnes and Sidhu's guilt and gave the context needed to show the truth surrounding the murder.

Both Barnes and Sidhu face 25 years to life in prison as a result of the convictions. Sentencing is scheduled for October 27, 2021 before the Honorable Charles Brehmer.

Adam Barnes



Manpreet Sidhu

