



ERIK NASARENKO
District Attorney

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Approved: PN
Date: Wednesday, June 23, 2021
Release No.: 21-070

Simi Valley Woman Convicted of Manslaughter

VENTURA, California – District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Mary Eugenia Karacas (DOB 01/16/41), of Simi Valley, pled guilty to one count of voluntary manslaughter for the unlawful killing of Salvatore Orefice, also of Simi Valley. Karacas also admitted she personally used a firearm during the commission of the crime. In a separate case, Karacas pled guilty to one count of assault with force likely to produce great bodily injury for attacking and biting Erin Edwards of Ojai.

On July 17, 2016, at approximately 4:13 p.m., the Simi Valley Police Department was dispatched to a residence located in the 6000 block of Anastasia Avenue in Simi Valley for a subject not breathing. When officers arrived, they found 84-year-old victim Salvatore Orefice deceased in his bedroom. The Medical Examiner concluded that he had been shot. Karacas was contacted and admitted to shooting Orefice, who was her longtime partner.

On February 5, 2017, at approximately 9:45 a.m., Todd Road Jail deputies were notified by victim Erin Edwards that her cellmate, Mary Karacas, had attacked her. When deputies arrived at the cell, they saw the victim holding a bloody towel to her face. Karacas admitted to starting the physical confrontation and biting Edwards.

Sentencing is set for July 21, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. in courtroom 12 of the Ventura County Superior Court. It is expected Karacas will be sentenced to 14 years in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Karacas is currently being held in the Todd Road Jail with no bail.

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The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is the public prosecutor for the county's 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 280 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.