



**ERIK NASARENKO**  
**District Attorney**

**NEWS RELEASE**

[www.vcdistrictattorney.com](http://www.vcdistrictattorney.com)

Twitter: [@VenturaDAOoffice](https://twitter.com/VenturaDAOoffice) Facebook: [@VCDAAoffice](https://facebook.com/VCDAAoffice) Instagram: [@VCDAAoffice](https://instagram.com/VCDAAoffice)

---

Contact: Brandon Ross  
Title: Senior Deputy District Attorney  
Telephone: (805) 654-2519  
Email: Brandon.Ross@Ventura.org

Approved: LOL  
Date: Thursday, June 16, 2022  
Release No.: 22-075

**Chileans Sentenced in Organized Retail Theft**

*VENTURA, California* – District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Esperanza Venejas (DOB 11/09/96), of Chile, and Hugo Perez Martinez (DOB 08/11/95), of Chile, and a juvenile, of Chile, all suspected members of a South American Theft Group, were sentenced for committing organized retail theft. Martinez was also sentenced for resisting arrest.

On April 15, 2022, at approximately 6:00 p.m., security at The Oaks shopping mall in Thousand Oaks was notified of four suspects trying to break into a parked vehicle. When security arrived on scene, the four suspects separated and fled the area on foot. Deputies from the Ventura County Sheriff's Office located and arrested the juvenile and Venejas. Meanwhile, Martinez returned to the parked vehicle, fled and was apprehended. In the lot near where the vehicle had been parked, a booster bag with approximately \$2,500 in stolen Macy's department store merchandise was found.

Venejas and Martinez were each sentenced to 270 days in the Ventura County Jail and 24 months formal probation. The court ordered Venejas and Martinez to stay away from all Macy's stores. The juvenile was declared a ward of the court and ordered to serve 54 days in the Juvenile Justice Facility.

###

The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is the public prosecutor for the county's 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 290 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.