



ERIK NASARENKO
VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
NEWS RELEASE



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Oxnard Man Charged with Two 1981 Cold Case Murders
Case: 2023003200

VENTURA, Calif. - District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that two counts of first-degree murder have been filed against Tony Garcia (DOB 05/07/54), of Oxnard, for the 1981 cold case murders of Rachel Zendejas and Lisa Gondek.

Garcia made his first court appearance today, Thursday, February 9, 2023. His arraignment was continued to February 23, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. in courtroom 13 of the Ventura County Superior Court. He is currently being held in custody in the Ventura County Jail without bail.

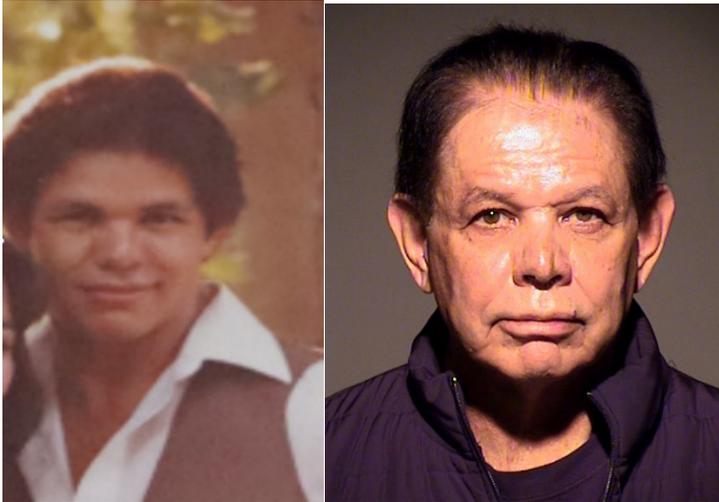
He is charged with committing the January 18, 1981 murder, rape, and kidnapping of Camarillo resident Rachel Zendejas and the December 12, 1981 murder of Oxnard resident Lisa Gondek. Rachel Zendejas' body was found in a carport on the 700 block of Mobil Avenue in Camarillo. Lisa Gondek's remains were found after an apartment fire was reported on the 1200 block of Gonzales Road in Oxnard. Her body was discovered in the bathtub of the apartment. Both cases went cold for over 40 years, until Garcia was linked to the murders using DNA analysis. Garcia was arrested on February 7, 2023.

"After more than four decades, justice is finally coming to the families of Rachel Zendejas and Lisa Gondek," said Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko. "As this case demonstrates, murder charges can be brought at any time and there is no statute of limitations for homicides. We thank the Ventura County Sheriff's Office, the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation, and the Oxnard Police Department for never giving up on finding Rachel and Lisa's killer."

Senior Deputy District Attorney Richard Simon, a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office Major Crimes Unit, has been assigned to the case.

Anyone with information about Garcia that can further assist investigators on these two cases are encouraged to contact the Cold Case Unit at the phone number or email address listed below.

- Call the Ventura County Sheriff's Office Major Crimes Bureau at (805) 383-8704.
- Email the Ventura County Sheriff's Office Major Crimes Bureau at coldcase@ventura.org



Defendant Information:

Tony Garcia (DOB 05/07/54)
Oxnard

Charges Filed:

- PC 187(a) - Murder (2 counts)
 - Special Allegations
 - PC 190.2(a)(3) - Commission of more than one murder
 - PC 190.2(a)(17)(iii) - Murder while engaged in rape
 - PC 190.2(c)(3)(ii) - Murder while engaged in kidnapping
 - PC 189 - First-degree murder



Rachel Zendejas

Lisa Gondek

A news conference was held on February 9, 2023 with Ventura County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko, Ventura County Sheriff Jim Fryhoff and Oxnard Police Chief Jason Benites: [1981 Cold Case Murder Suspect Arrested & Charged - News Conference - YouTube](#)