


**GREGORY D. TOTTEN**  
**District Attorney**

**NEWS RELEASE**

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

Twitter: [@VenturaDAO](https://twitter.com/VenturaDAO)

Contact: Tate McCallister  
Title: Senior Deputy District Attorney  
Telephone: 805-654-2718  
E-mail: [tate.mccallister@ventura.org](mailto:tate.mccallister@ventura.org)

Approved: CMT   
Date: Thursday, June 25, 2020  
Release No.: 20-053

**Inmate Pleads Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity for Jail Killing**

*VENTURA, California* – District Attorney Gregory D. Totten announced today that an amended complaint was filed against Vu Cong Dao (DOB 03/04/83), of Palmdale, charging him with voluntary manslaughter for the October 25, 2018, killing of Michael Torres, of Oxnard. Dao appeared in courtroom 27 of the Ventura County Superior Court on June 24, 2020, where he entered a plea of not guilty by reason of insanity, thereby admitting he committed the charged act. The case will now move to a trial to determine Dao’s sanity at the time of the killing.

On October 25, 2018, at the Ventura County Main Jail in the city of Ventura, Torres was found beaten and strangled to death in his cell. Torres’ cellmate, Dao, was later arrested for the killing. Dao was in custody at the time of the killing after being arrested and charged with committing a commercial burglary that took place on October 18, 2018, in Camarillo.

The trial is scheduled for July 8, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. in courtroom 27 of the Ventura County Superior Court. Dao remains in custody at the Ventura County jail, without bail.

###

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 other professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.

Follow the Ventura County District Attorney’s Office on Twitter [@VenturaDAO](https://twitter.com/VenturaDAO)