



COUNTY OF FRESNO

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PATRICIA PEREZ'S MURDER CONVICTION UPHeld

Today, November 17, 2016, Patricia Perez's appeal of her 2014 murder conviction was upheld by Fresno Superior Court Judge W. Kent Hamlin.

Perez and co-defendant David Barrera were convicted by a jury on April 18, 2014 of the brutal murder of Lawrence Ballesteros in southwest Fresno. They conspired with one another to murder Mr. Ballesteros and then disposed of his body near the Chandler Airport. Both defendants were sentenced to life in prison in April 2014.

Earlier this year, Barrera wrote a letter confessing to this crime and indicated that he acted alone. Today, at a hearing, Judge Hamlin found that Barrera's confession was not credible because it was inconsistent with both the physical evidence and the testimony of the witnesses in this case. Accordingly, Judge Hamlin denied Perez's appeal and upheld her conviction.

Both Perez and Barrera will be returned to state prison to serve out their life sentences.

The Media may contact Administrative Assistant Leslie Gillespie at (559) 600-4442 with questions.

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