



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

News Release

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

Mark J. Bennett, Attorney General
Phone: (808) 586-1500
Fax: (808) 586-1239

For Immediate Release: March 21, 2007

News Release No. 2007-07

COLD CASE MURDER CONVICTION

(HONOLULU) - An Oahu jury convicted Jenaro Torres, 57, for the 1992 murder of Ruben Gallegos. The offense occurred during the course of a robbery of \$80,000 from the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange, where Gallegos worked as a cashier. Gallegos was 19 years old at that time.

The murder trial began on March 5, 2007 and continued through March 20, 2007. The jury returned the guilty verdict after approximately 2 and ½ hours of deliberation. Torres was convicted of murder in the second degree and was also found to have used a firearm in commission of the murder. This means that Torres, in addition to the life imprisonment with the possibility of parole sentence he will receive for murder in the second degree, may also be sentenced to a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment without possibility of parole or probation for up to fifteen years. Sentencing will be on May 29, 2007, until which time Torres will be held without bail.

In 1992, investigators discovered all but \$2,000 of the stolen money in the trunk of Torres' vehicle. Torres was convicted in the United States District Court in 1992 of Theft of Government Funds in Excess of \$100 and Place to Keep Firearm. He was sentenced to two years of incarceration at the Terminal Island Detention Center in

(more)

California and placed on probation for three additional years. However, Torres was not prosecuted for the murder at that time.

This case was originally investigated by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), and adopted by the Cold Case Unit within the Department of the Attorney General after the Unit was established in February 2005. The December 7, 2005 Oahu grand jury indictment of Torres was the first obtained by the Cold Case Unit. Torres's whereabouts were not known at the time of the indictment.

In late December 2005, Torres was located in Las Vegas, specifically in the locker room of a fitness gym he used at Nellis Air Force Base, and arrested by Las Vegas law enforcement authorities who worked cooperatively with the investigators of the Cold Case Unit as well as NCIS.

Attorney General Mark Bennett stated:

"I would first like to express again my sympathy to Ruben Gallegos's family for their tragic loss. I would like to greatly thank the prosecutors, Susan Won and Neil Murakami, for their skilled and excellent work in obtaining a just result in this case. I would also like to thank the dedicated investigators in the Cold Case Unit and the NCIS.

I began the Cold Case Unit to try to obtain justice for murder victims and their families. Cold cases, by their nature, are very difficult to prosecute. This case was exceptionally difficult. I am glad we were able to obtain a just result."

###

For more information, contact:
Susan Y. N. Won
Deputy Attorney General
Criminal Justice Division
(808) 586-1160
susan.y.won@hawaii.gov
www.hawaii.gov/ag