



Riverside County District Attorney

# NEWS RELEASE

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## MAN SENTENCED TO LIFE IN PRISON FOR TORTURE

INDIO, CA: Today, March 26, 2010, Judge John Ryan sentenced Chet Randall Pruitt to life in prison for breaking in to a woman's home and torturing her in 1996. Pruitt was convicted of torture on November 16, 2009, as well as 14 other felonies including assault with a deadly weapon and burglary.

Pruitt, (DOB: 10/18/74), was first convicted on the case in 1998 and sentenced to life in prison. However, in 2005, the 9<sup>th</sup> District Court of Appeals reversed the conviction saying the defendant was not granted his right to act as his own attorney.

"Despite the challenges that we may face, it is important for us to achieve justice especially with someone who is so violent and dangerous," said District Attorney Rod Pacheco. "This defendant will now spend the rest of his life in prison."

Pruitt, who had just been released from a state prison in Nevada, went on a crime spree in Desert Hot Springs from October 1996 through January 1997. During the spree, Pruitt broke into vehicles, businesses and homes, each time stealing property. During one of the residential burglaries a woman returned home from work. Pruitt tied her up, choked her to the point of unconsciousness twice, and threatened to kill her.

The case, INF027100, was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Christopher Ross.

"This case has been a long fight for justice," said Ross. "No person should have to go through the pain and torture that this victim endured."

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