



Riverside County District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

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JURY FINDS MAN GUILTY OF MURDERING HIS GIRLFRIEND BY MEANS OF MANUAL STRANGULATION

INDIO: Today, May 20, 2010, a Riverside County jury convicted a man for the murder of his girlfriend during a 2006 argument in Desert Hot Springs.

On November 8, 2006, Pietro Alberto Saintis, DOB: 01/03/60, got into a fight with his girlfriend inside her motorhome. Neighbors next door to the motorhome heard a woman screaming for help around 2:30 a.m. but did nothing until 8:00 a.m. At that time, a neighbor walked through the unlocked door of the motorhome and discovered the woman's badly beaten and bloody body. The neighbor called police and a short time later the victim, Donna Jean Bodkin, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Saintis admitted to a friend that he was angry with the victim for declining his sexual requests. He further admitted that he had fought with the victim and that he may have killed her. The coroner's report identified the cause of death as manual strangulation. The report further indicated that there was various bruising on the body, including a broken nose.

The case, INF063053, was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney A.C. Hester.

"I'm happy for the family of the victim and relieved that the jury returned the murder conviction," said Hester. "No woman deserves to be beaten like this – this was a murder, a ruthless murder."

Saintis faces 15 years to life in prison when he is sentenced at 10:30 a.m. on July 26, 2010, in Dept. 2F of the Larson Justice Center in Indio.

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