



Riverside County District Attorney
NEWS RELEASE

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JURY FINDS MAN GUILTY OF 1996 MURDER OF 13-YEAR-OLD MURRIETA GIRL

RIVERSIDE – A jury late today, Aug. 31, 2010, found a man guilty of murder in the brutal 1996 killing of a 13-year-old Murrieta girl.

Crispin Solorio Garcia (DOB: 10-11-78) eluded capture for more than a decade when he fled to Mexico after killing Sophia Briseno. The teen's body was found in February 1996 in a field near a Murrieta cemetery. Sophia, a student at Thompson Middle School in Murrieta, had been stabbed more than 60 times with a screwdriver.

"After more than 14 years there is finally some justice for the senseless murder of this innocent 13-year-old girl," District Attorney Rod Pacheco said. "Justice could not have been achieved without the hard work of local and federal law enforcement officers, our prosecutor, and this jury."

The nine-woman, three-man jury found Solorio Garcia guilty of first-degree murder and found that he personally used a screwdriver to commit the murder.

After Sophia's body was found, Murrieta police quickly determined that Solorio Garcia was the killer. Solorio Garcia, who was 17 at the time, and Sophia had been dating but were estranged at the time of her murder. Solorio Garcia eluded capture until June 2007 when authorities found him in a Mexican jail using a different name. Solorio Garcia was later extradited back to the United States to be brought to justice for Sophia's murder

The case, SWF027815, was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Sarah Crowley.

"I hope this verdict gives the family some closure after having to wait so long for this day," Crowley said.

Solorio Garcia is scheduled to be sentenced by Judge John Molloy at 10 a.m., Nov. 5, 2010, in Dept. 4 at the Riverside Historic Courthouse.

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