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Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) Denied Parole for Convicted Double Murderer David Martinez
CDC #B38510; Court Case number SC017377A

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced the California Board of Parole Hearings (BPH) denied release to convicted double murderer David Martinez. On September 26, 2023, BPH found that Martinez posed a current and unreasonable risk to public safety. Representing the District Attorney's Office was Deputy District Attorney Gina Nargie.

In August of 1974, Martinez went on three-week crime spree that resulted in two heinous murders. On August 6-7, 1974, Martinez raped and murdered his first victim. On August 7, 1974, the victim's mother called the Kern River Sheriff's substation to report that their 21-year-old daughter was missing. The victim had worked late at the local newspaper office at Lake Isabella and had not been heard from. A local family from the area found the victim on the side of the road with blood on her body. The victim told the family, "He made me drive, he beat me, he raped me."

Further investigation revealed that the victim left work and got into a car loaned to her by her employer. When she got into the car, Martinez was hiding in the back seat. At gunpoint, Martinez ordered the victim to drive him "down the canyon." The victim sustained one gunshot wound to the right side of her head and one gunshot wound to her leg. The victim died as a result of these gunshot wounds hours later.

On August 7, 1974, Martinez attempted to use a stolen Macy's credit card at the Eastridge Shopping center in Santa Clara County. When store personnel tried to detain Martinez and question him about the stolen card, Martinez fled. Two security guards tried to stop Martinez. Martinez took out a handgun and fired shots at the security guards and fled. Martinez found a vehicle being driven by a family with children in the car. He got in the car and at gun point ordered the husband to drive away. Martinez held this family of five at gunpoint so he could get away to San Jose.

On August 27, 1974, Huntington Beach Police Department received a phone call about a possible drunk driver heading east on Pacific Coast Highway. When officers arrived, they found Martinez and the vehicle he was driving stuck in the sand. Officers detected an odor of alcohol, and Martinez was determined to be intoxicated. During the process of towing the vehicle, officers found the body of a deceased male inside the trunk of the vehicle. Further investigation revealed that the vehicle Martinez was driving belonged to the victim, a lawyer from Long Beach, California.

In November of 1974, Martinez pled to murder in the second degree in Los Angeles County for the second murder victim. In November of 1974, Martinez pled in Santa Clara County to kidnapping with use of a firearm and assault with a deadly weapon.

On October 10, 1975, a Kern County Jury found Martinez guilty of murder in the first degree, kidnapping and robbery for the death involving the 21-year-old female from the Lake Isabella area. In 1975, Martinez was sent to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to serve a life sentence with the possibility of parole for all three cases.

The focus of the hearing with the Board of Parole was on Martinez's ability to maintain sobriety and his insight into his crime. While Martinez admitted to both murders, he continued to demonstrate an extreme lack of awareness as to why he committed the murders. Martinez engaged in victim blaming as part of his justifications for both murders. The Kern County District Attorney's Office asked the Board of Parole to deny parole. The Board of Parole found that Martinez was unsuitable for parole and posed a current unreasonable risk of danger to society.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the denial saying "A dangerous criminal like Martinez should never have the possibility of parole. The District Attorney's Office will continue to fight for victims and our community to ensure that violent criminals remain behind bars."