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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPPER DARBY MAN ARRESTED FOR FIRST-DEGREE MURDER IN KILLING OF HIS FORMER PARTNER



FREDDY REMIGIO MENDIETA PANDO

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (Sept. 17, 2021) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele, Upper Darby Police Superintendent Timothy M. Bernhardt and Lower Providence Township Police Chief Michael Jackson announce the arrest of Freddy Remigio Mendieta Pando, 23, of the 200 block of Copley Road in Upper Darby, for First-Degree Murder and related charges in the homicide of his former partner Karina Torres, 23, of Upper Darby. Torres' body was found in Lower Providence Township in Montgomery County.

The investigation began on Sept. 16, 2021, when Mendieta Pando walked into the Upper Darby Police headquarters at 11:50 a.m. and told two detectives through his cellphone translation application that "I killed my partner." Mendieta Pando showed the detectives on a map, where the body could be found, which was at adjacent to the Schuylkill River Trail in Lower Providence Township, near the Betzwood Trailhead. At 1:25 p.m., a Lower Providence Police Detective found the body of a deceased female lying face down in a wooded area approximately 15 feet off the Schuylkill River Trail. The woman was identified as Torres.

The joint investigation by the Montgomery County Detectives and Lower Providence Township Police found that Torres had obtained a Protection From Abuse Order against Mendieta Pando that was in effect at the time of her murder.

On Sept. 17, 2021, Forensic Pathologist Marianne Hamel of the Montgomery County Coroner's Office performed an autopsy on the body of Karina Torres and determined that Torres died of multiple stab wounds and the manner of death was homicide.

"This tragic killing of Karina Torres is the worst end result of domestic violence. The victim was previously strangled and sought help from police, who charged the defendant. Karina then obtained a Protection of Abuse Order. But sadly, the defendant was able to reach her and ultimately killed her," said Steele. "People who are strangled by a spouse or intimate partner need to know that they are in serious danger—they are likely to be killed by that person, as in this terrible case. Women experiencing domestic violence need to know there is help available. Reach out to Laurel House or the Women's Center of Montgomery County. They can help."

Mendieta Pando was arrested and charged with First-Degree Murder, Third-Degree Murder and Possessing an Instrument of Crime. He is in the process of being arraigned. There is no bail available for First-Degree Murder, and Mendieta Pando will be remanded to the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. A preliminary hearing will be scheduled at the arraignment.

The case will be prosecuted by District Attorney Kevin Steele.

Approved for release:
Kevin R. Steele

CRIMINAL CHARGES, AND ANY DISCUSSION THEREOF, ARE MERELY ALLEGATIONS AND ALL DEFENDANTS ARE PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL AND UNLESS PROVEN GUILTY.