

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

FUGITIVE RETURNED TO MONTEREY COUNTY TO FACE MURDER CHARGES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Ernesto Hernandez, age 28 from Soledad, was arraigned on 1st degree murder charges in the Monterey County Superior Court, Salinas.

On March 29, 2016, the Greenfield Police Department responded to a report of a homicide. Abigail Gasca-Chavez, age 19, was found dead from multiple gunshot wounds. After further investigation, Ernesto Hernandez, the father of one of Gasca-Chavez' children, was determined to be the primary suspect and a warrant for his arrest was issued on April 1, 2016.

The Greenfield Police Department and the Monterey County District Attorney's Office worked jointly during the initial investigation. On April 5, 2016, Monterey County District Attorney's Investigators took the lead role.

District Attorney Investigators developed further leads and information on the whereabouts of Ernesto Hernandez. With the aid of the U.S. Marshals and Mexican authorities, Hernandez was arrested in Mexico on Monday, April 18, 2016. He was transported back to the United States where District Attorney Investigators took custody of him in Los Angeles, California. He was later transported to the Monterey County Jail.

Hernandez entered pleas of not guilty and will return to court on May 11, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. for preliminary calendar call.