

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

GARDEN GROVE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DOUBLE MURDER AND ATTEMPTED MURDERS

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Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today, February 28, 2017, that Samuel Ejaz, age 51 of Garden Grove, California, pled guilty to two counts of first degree murder, and two counts of attempted murder, spousal abuse and enhancements for personal use of a firearm.

On August 27, 2015, Ejaz a naturalized citizen from Pakistan, shot and killed his estranged wife's aunt and uncle, and attempted to kill his wife and her cousin, severely injuring them both. This shooting arose out of an ongoing marital dispute between Ejaz and his wife, age 27. Ejaz's wife, Jane Doe, immigrated from the Philippines just months before they were married on March 15, 2015. According to Jane Doe, the disputes centered on Ejaz attempting to control every aspect of her life, including the type of job she could work at, freedom to leave and return to the home as she pleased, and the manner of greeting him when he came home from work. At one point during the months of tension, she escaped to a women's shelter. Following her return home, he made implied threats of buying a gun to kill her, so she abruptly left and enlisted in the United States Navy.

Jane Doe's enlistment into the Navy enraged Ejaz and he began a plot to kill her. He purchased a 9mm handgun and stalked her as she worked her way through boot camp and technical training. He continued emailing her and telephoning her incessantly. He tried to contact her through her aunt and uncle whom he knew lived in Salinas, having visited their house once before the wedding. Ejaz learned from Navy personnel that she was scheduled for a two week furlough on August 25, 2015, and he guessed, correctly, that she would visit her aunt and uncle in Salinas.

The night before the murders, Ejaz checked into a motel two blocks from the aunt and uncle's house. He drove by the house conducting surveillance by taking pictures of their home and car. The next morning he waited and watched from a distance, until all four victims emerged from the house and got into the aunt's car to go to the Salinas Social Security office for an appointment. Ejaz followed the aunt's car to the Social Security parking lot, pulling in behind the victims, blocking them from leaving. He then retrieved his 9mm handgun from the trunk of his car and pointed it at his wife who had gotten out of the car to try to talk with him. She began begging him not to shoot her. She immediately saw the futility of her attempt and began to run. He shot at her twice, hitting her once in the back. Once she had been struck and was lying on the ground bleeding, Ejaz turned towards the car and saw the aunt who was apparently getting out of the car to help Jane Doe. He fired at the aunt three times, killing her instantly. He then walked up to the car shot twice at the uncle, killing him where he sat, and then shot the cousin once before he ran out of ammunition.

A Good Samaritan witness to the shooting approached as Ejaz returned to his wife and began talking to her as she lay bleeding in the parking lot. The witness convinced Ejaz to set down the gun and give up a second magazine loaded with more ammunition. Jane Doe's life was saved by this

Good Samaritan, superb work by the Salinas Police Department, American Medical Response paramedics, and the medical team at Natividad Medical Center.

Ejaz was immediately arrested without a struggle, and provided law enforcement with a full confession. He said that he killed the aunt, uncle and tried to kill the cousin because they helped his wife “get away from him.”

Ejaz was charged with double first degree murder, and murder while lying in wait. These charges made this case eligible for the death penalty. The Monterey County District Attorney’s Office decided not to pursue the death penalty instead determining that life without the possibility of parole was an appropriate disposition. The plea to all charges forcloes any further litigation and brings permanent closure to the surviving victims. Additionally, the victims’ family did not desire the death penalty, requesting instead that Ejaz spend the rest of his life in prison.

He will be sentenced by Judge Julie Culver on April 14, 2017, to life without the possibility of parole.