

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

SALINAS MAN ENTERS GUILTY PLEA FOR HIS ROLE IN DEATH OF ONE MAN AND FOR SHOOTING AT DEPUTIES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 9, 2017

CONTACT: DAVID RABOW

(831) 755-5327

Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Paulo Barcenas, 37, a resident of Salinas, entered guilty pleas for his role in the beating, kidnapping and death of Ronnie Cronn Jr. and for shooting at members of the Monterey County Sheriff's SWAT team.

Ronnie Cronn Jr. went missing in May 2016. The circumstances surrounding the death of Cronn Jr. include him being beaten and taken to another location where he was killed. His body was then disposed of in a remote area of the county. Parts of his body were recovered in a remote area of Chualar in September 2016.

Jeffrey Madruga and Julie McClure have also been charged with the murder of Cronn Jr. Anyone with information is asked to call Monterey Sheriff Detective Nicholas Kennedy at (831) 759-7201 or the tip line at (888)833-4847.

On October 15, 2016, Barcenas, who was wanted for his role in the death of Cronn Jr., barricaded himself inside the Casa Verde Inn in Monterey. When members of the SWAT team attempted to serve a search warrant on his room, Barcenas refused to exit and a standoff ensued. Despite requests that he surrender, Barcenas chose to shoot at the deputies as they attempted to enter the room. Ultimately, the SWAT team deployed a robot to enter the hotel room. Barcenas fired his weapon again towards the SWAT team. The stand-off lasted several hours, and eventually Barcenas was shot once in the chest by a SWAT team member. Barcenas was hospitalized for about two months before being transferred to the Monterey County Jail. No law enforcement personnel or bystanders were injured during the multi hour ordeal.

Barcenas will receive a sentence of 51 years and 4 months in prison. Judge Andrew G. Liu presided over the case.