

*** NEWS RELEASE ***

SEASIDE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO KILLING THE MOTHER OF HIS CHILDREN

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CONTACT: Elaine McCleaf, Deputy District Attorney
(831) 755-5246**

Monterey County District Attorney Dean D. Flippo announced today that Hai Long Tran, age 46 of Seaside, entered a guilty plea to the charge of murder in the second degree for the killing of Hong Ngoc Nguyen, who was the mother of his two children, ages 15 and 18.

On April 14, 2016, Seaside Police Officers responded to an address on Kenneth Street in the city of Seaside to find Nguyen's body in an upstairs bedroom with severe head wounds that appeared to be caused from being bludgeoned with a lamp. Monterey County Coroner determined the victim was strangled as well as had suffered twenty-one blows to the head causing several skull fractures.

The investigation determined that earlier in the day of her death, Nguyen had been at the Monterey County Courthouse applying for a restraining order. In her request, she stated that Tran was stalking her daily and she feared for her life.

Nguyen also contacted a family law lawyer in San Jose on April 1, 2016 to assist her with a restraining order and on April 9, 2016, Nguyen took her vehicle to a local service center where the technician found a GPS device which Nguyen took directly to the Seaside Police Department.

After her murder, investigators found a second GPS device on Nguyen's vehicle as well as two video surveillance cameras in victim's bedroom which she shared with her daughter. Evidence was found on Tran's cell phone to prove he was tracking the victim's whereabouts.

Judge Carrie Panetta will sentence Tran on February 27, 2018 to a fifteen years-to-life sentence in the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

The case was investigated by the Seaside Police Department, Peninsula Regional Violence & Narcotics Team and DA Investigator Oliver Minnig.

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