



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **Javier Aguirre Sentenced to 55 Years in Murder of Apartment Complex Manager**

Javier Aguirre was sentenced to 55 years in prison Friday in the 2010 stabbing death of Lyndsay Pham at an Aurora apartment complex.

“Lyndsay Pham was murdered on March 3, 2010 and this has been an open wound for her family ever since,” said District Attorney Dave Young. “They have had to endure countless delays and hearings as the defendant was extradited and the case was prepared for trial. I only hope that this sentence and the knowledge that the defendant will spend the rest of his life in prison will give Ms. Pham’s husband and children a sense that justice has been done.”

Aguirre (DOB 11/30/79) was extradited from Mexico in 2015 to face charges in the case. He pleaded guilty Dec. 22 to second-degree murder (F2) and aggravated robbery (F3) in the March 2010 slaying of Pham at the northwest Aurora apartment complex she owned and managed with her husband. Pham, 45, was brutally beaten and repeatedly stabbed in the office of the Descanso Plaza Apartments at 11102 E. 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Aurora.

Chief Deputy District Attorney Ally Baber said that Aguirre and his girlfriend, Lupe Rubio, planned the robbery, taking advantage of Pham’s generosity in giving Rubio a job and a place to stay with Aguirre at the apartment complex. Rubio previously was sentenced to 17 years in prison.

On March 3, 2010, Aguirre entered the office of the complex where Pham worked, armed with a knife, a mask covering his face. When Aguirre realized that Pham recognized him despite his disguise, Baber said, Aguirre punched her in the face, breaking her nose. He continued to attack her, punching and strangling her before stabbing her multiple times and fleeing the scene, leaving her for dead. He later fled to Mexico.

“Lyndsay Pham was a strong woman,” Baber said. “She fought for her life. She fought as hard as she could but she did not stand a chance against Mr. Aguirre. This is one of the most aggravated cases I’ve ever seen. The only appropriate sentence for the brutality of this murder is the full 55 years.”

Pham’s husband, Michael Pham, told the court he agreed to a plea agreement with a

stipulated sentence of 50 to 55 years to spare his three children from reliving the painful details of their mother's murder during a first-degree murder trial.

"The crime scene photos are horrific," said Adams County District Judge Craig Welling. "The defendant chose to escalate this from a robbery gone awry to a homicide. He chose to murder Ms. Pham in the most brutal manner."

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