



SANTA ANA POLICE DEPARTMENT



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Cpl. Jose Gonzalez
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SAPD Cold Case Homicide Unit Solves 1987 Murder

Synopsis: On June 3, 1987, Patricia Lopez disappeared. She was last seen alive after school got out for the day. A missing person report was taken and a massive search was initiated to try to locate Patricia. Officers were unable to locate her for two days. On June 5, 1987, Patricia's severely beaten body was discovered by children playing inside a feeder tunnel in the Santa Ana Riverbed, near Fairview St. Although numerous leads were pursued by detectives at the time, her killer was not identified.

The Cold Case Homicide Detail, which was formed in 2006, began reviewing this homicide. They found items of evidence collected at the time of the homicide, which had not been tested using modern forensic technology. Forensic scientists at the Orange County Sheriff's Department tested these items. As a result of these tests, detectives began focusing their attention on Patricia's brother, Rosendo Lopez.

Rosendo was contacted on October 11, 2007 and interviewed regarding the homicide. Because of the interview, he was booked at the Santa Ana Jail for the murder of Patricia Lopez.

Victim: Patricia Lopez – 8 years old at the time of the murder

Arrestee: Rosendo Lopez, 42 years old

Available to the media: Interview opportunities with the PIO and copy of the victim's and suspect's photographs.

**For follow-up or interviews, contact the PIO, Cpl. Jose Gonzalez, at
714-245-8715.**

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