



**ERIK NASARENKO**  
VENTURA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
**NEWS RELEASE**



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Approved: RHD  
Date: December 16, 2022  
Release No.: 22-152

**Hawthorne Man Arraigned in Murder of  
Simi Valley Mother Rachel Castillo**  
Case #: 2022029127

VENTURA, Calif. - District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced that ZARBAB ALI (DOB 01/04/97), of Hawthorne, has been arraigned on murder charges in the death of Simi Valley resident Rachel Castillo. He entered a not guilty plea today to the murder charge and special allegations.

The murder charge was filed on November 15, 2022, in the Ventura County Superior Court. Ali was also charged with a special allegation of lying in wait and personal use of a knife.

Senior Deputy District Attorney Courtney Lewis, a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office Major Crimes, Homicides Unit is the prosecutor assigned to the case.

The defendant remains in custody without bail. His next court date is scheduled for January 18, 2023, for an early disposition conference.



**Defendant Information:**

ZARBAB ALI  
Hawthorne, California

**Charges:**

- Murder - PC 187
- Lying in wait - Special Allegation - 190.2(a) (15)
- Knife enhancement - 12022(b)1