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NEWS RELEASE

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Hidalgo County fugitive captured living in Mexico after 10 years on the run

EDINBURG – A fugitive convicted of First Degree Murder in 2008 was returned to the United States Wednesday, after his capture in Mexico. Oscar Davila Rodriguez, 35, had been on the run since failing to appear on the last day of his trial in the 398th District Court for the 2005 murder of his ex-girlfriend.

“The tireless work of dedicated law enforcement on both sides of the border ensured that justice was served,” said Criminal District Attorney Ricardo Rodriguez Jr.

During the trial, which began on July 1, 2008, the prosecution presented evidence that Rodriguez broke into 19-year-old Nydia Maldonado’s home in McAllen and killed her. The victim had been strangled and suffered multiple stab wounds. Although Rodriguez failed to appear for the last day of his trial, the jury found him guilty of First Degree murder and sentenced him to serve 40 years in prison.

Rodriguez will serve his sentence at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice - Institutional Division.

Assistant District Attorney Michelle Puig, who served as lead prosecutor on the case, said Rodriguez’ capture will bring closure to Maldonado’s family.

“Victims we have lost cannot cry out for justice. It is the duty of those entrusted with upholding the law to fight for those whose voices have been silenced,” said Puig. “Justice will finally be served and will give peace to Nydia and all those who loved her.”

The fugitive investigation was conducted by the FBI with assistance from US Customs and Border Patrol, Texas Department of Public Safety, and Maverick County Sherriff’s Office. In Mexico, the efforts of the Governor of Coahuila, Miguel Riquelme, and the state police, Fuerza Coahuila, were instrumental in the apprehension and deportation of the fugitive to the United States.

“The apprehension and return of the defendant highlights the outstanding law enforcement collaboration among agencies in the United States and Mexico and demonstrates the bilateral tenacity involved in bringing those who threaten our communities to justice,” said FBI Special Agent in Charge Christopher Combs, San Antonio Division.

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