



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

News Release

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Cold case investigation leads to indictment in 1992 Oahu murder case

(HONOLULU) An Oahu grand jury has indicted Jenaro Torres, 57, for the 1992 murder of Ruben Gallegos. The offense occurred during the course of a robbery of \$80,000 from the Pearl Harbor Navy Exchange, where Gallegos worked as a cashier. Gallegos was 19 years old at that time.

Investigators later discovered all but \$2,000 of the stolen money in the trunk of Torres' vehicle. Torres was convicted in the United States District Court in 1992 of Theft of Government Funds in Excess of \$100 and Place to Keep Firearm. He was sentenced to two years of incarceration at the Terminal Island Detention Center in California and placed on probation for three additional years.

Torres' present whereabouts are unknown. Bail has been set at \$500,000. Torres is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at trial.

This case was originally investigated by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), and adopted by the Cold Case Unit within the Department of the Attorney General after the unit was established in February 2005. The December 7, 2005 indictment is the first obtained by the unit.

In 2004, the Attorney General sought and received a federal Byrne Memorial Formula Grant to establish the Cold Case Unit to investigate and prosecute cold homicide cases throughout the state and to develop a statewide, coordinated approach to cold homicide investigations. Funding for the unit will continue through a federal Justice Assistance Grant.

“The Cold Case Unit is increasing the effectiveness of cold case homicide investigations throughout Hawaii,” Attorney General Mark Bennett said. “We are working with law enforcement agencies in every county and at all levels of government to bring justice and closure in homicide cases. We particularly commend the NCIS for its assistance in this case.”

The Attorney General has established memoranda of understanding with the police departments and prosecuting attorneys of all four counties, the Department of Public Safety, the United States Attorney for the District of Hawaii, the NCIS, and the United States Joint Pacific Area Command – Central Identification Laboratory.

In partnership with the NCIS, the Department of the Attorney General held seminars in 2004 and 2005 to provide specialized training in cold case investigations methodology to investigators and prosecutors from state, federal, and county law enforcement agencies. Approximately 150 law enforcement professionals have attended these seminars.

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