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06 / 05 / 2023

# Investigation Reveals Suspicious Death to be Capital Murder

**Date/Time:** 05/21/2023 @ 1:34 P.M.

**Location:** 1301 N. Mesa (Budget Lodge Motel)

**Victim:** Carmen Unilda Navas Zuniga, 40 years of age, Honduran Immigrant

**Arrested:** Eddy Jose Ortega Alvarado, 34-years of age, Venezuelan Immigrant

**El Paso, Texas** – A man has been arrested and charged with Capital Murder in connection with a woman who was found dead in a motel. On Sunday, May 21, 2023, at 1:34 P.M., El Paso Police Officers and Fire Medical personnel responded to 1301 N. Mesa at the Budget Lodge Motel on a welfare check of a woman. The woman, 40-year-old Carmen Unilda Navas Zuniga was found unresponsive by motel personnel. Emergency crews found that the woman was deceased.

Crimes Against Persons Detectives and Investigators from the Criminalistics Unit responded to the scene. The preliminary investigation found the death to be suspicious in nature. Detectives learned that additional people had stayed in the room and identified 34-year-old Eddy Jose Ortega Alvarado as a person of interest. Ortega was found to have left El Paso and was in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. On Friday, June 2, 2023, El Paso Detectives met with Ortega in Fort Worth, Texas. After meeting with Ortega, the ongoing investigation found probable cause that he had murdered Navas and stolen her money. Navas and Ortega crossed into the United States and were processed by the U.S. Border Patrol on May 20, 2023.

Ortega was booked into the Tarrant County Jail on a Capital Murder warrant issued by Judge Aun with a \$2,500,000.00 bond. This case is an active investigation, and to protect the integrity of the case and future Capital Murder prosecution, additional details cannot be released. We ask the community's and news media's assistance in helping us ensure a fair trial by understanding that additional details may jeopardize the future prosecution. The El Paso Police Department thanks the Fort Worth Police Department for their assistance. This case becomes the 6th murder of 2023 compared to 9 at the same time last year.

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