

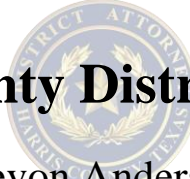
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Immediate Release  
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## **Harris County District Attorney**

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# **DA's Office Captures 2010 Murder Defendant**

*El Salvadorian authorities arrest 33-year-old Juan Castillo*

District Attorney Devon Anderson announced today that for the first time in the County's history, El Salvadorian authorities have complied with the Office's arrest and extradition request for a Harris County fugitive wanted for murder.

In 2010, Monica Leija, 36, was found fatally shot in her bedroom in Houston. 33-year-old Juan Castillo was Leija's common-law husband and was charged with her murder. Shortly after the killing, he fled to El Salvador.

On Tuesday April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014, El Salvadorian authorities arrested Castillo.

"I would like to commend our extradition administrator, Kim Bryant, for her dedication and persistence in coordinating with the El Salvadorian authorities to capture Castillo and bring justice to Monica Leija's family," said DA Anderson.

Currently, Castillo is in custody in El Salvador. He is facing a murder charge in Harris County. His bond is set at \$50,000.

"We are hopeful for success in this extradition because El Salvadorian authorities have arrested the defendant on behalf of the US", said Kim Bryant, Extradition Administrator. "The next step in the extradition process is that the El Salvadorian government will receive copies of evidence and statements in the case and then will determine within their court system whether they will order the defendant extradited back to the US in the near future."

The arrest was part of a joint effort with the FBI Task Force in Houston, the US State Department, and the US Department of Justice's Office of International Affairs.

The Harris County District Attorney's Office Extradition Unit is responsible for the return of all fugitives.

**Note:** There will be media availability on Friday April 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:30a.m. at 1201 Franklin Street on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor in the main conference room. DA Devon Anderson and the victim's family will be available.