



DenverDA

Mitchell R. Morrissey, District Attorney - Second Judicial District

201 W. Colfax Avenue, Dept. 801, Denver, CO 80202

Bus. Phone: 720-913-9000
Fax: 720-913-9035

NEWS RELEASE

April 25, 2006

Contact: Lynn Kimbrough, 720-913-9025

MAN SENTENCED FOR KILLING WOMAN

A man accused of murdering a Denver woman who had befriended him has been sentenced to 54 years in prison.

Mario Rios (dob: 08-03-81) pleaded guilty earlier to second-degree murder and first-degree arson in the June 2004 death of 43-year-old Sabra Lomax, a woman with whom he was staying.

During the sentencing hearing, Denver Deputy DA Matt Wenig pointed out the senseless and disturbing violence Rios inflicted on a woman who had cared for him. Wenig told the Court how Rios strangled her to death, then tried to cover up the crime by leaving her body lying across railroad tracks, dumping her car in Sloan Lake and setting fire to her townhome.

Rios was sentenced on April 25, 2006 to a maximum 48 years in prison for the murder and was given 6 additional years in connection with another criminal case.

A woman accused of helping Rios with the murder, **Veronica Tapia** (dob: 07-21-84), has pleaded guilty to being an accessory to murder and to motor vehicle theft and faces a 10-year prison term when she is sentenced next week.