



DenverDA

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NEWS RELEASE

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ROMERO FOUND GUILTY IN TEEN'S MURDER

A Denver jury has found **Edward Timothy Romero** (DOB: 04-24-84) guilty in the horrific murder of 16-year-old Alicia Martinez in 2010.

Romero, who had pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity, was found guilty today of *first-degree murder, tampering with evidence and abuse of a corpse*. Following a two-week long trial in Denver District Court, jurors deliberated just a matter of hours before returning their verdict late this morning.

On the evening of October 22, 2010, 16-year-old Alicia Martinez attended a social gathering at Romero's home in the 4100 block of North Decatur Street. Martinez was reported missing by her mother, and her body was later found at Romero's home.

Romero faces life in prison without parole when he appears for sentencing in Denver District Courtroom 5H on March 4, 2013, at 3 p.m.

Alicia's father and his family shared a written statement following the trial, which is attached below.

First of all the family would like to thank God for helping us get through this incredibly difficult situation.

We also would to Thank Mr. Cooper and Mr. Geigle for ~~their~~ all their hard work in processing this case.

Thank you to Kim Wood, Corina Covarrubias the Victims Advocates for making our time spent at the courthouse easier and offering us much support over the last 2+ years.

We Appreciate all the work that Holly Bowers and Buddy Grinstead did over the years to get this case to court.

We are very grateful to the Honorable Judge William Robbins and the jury for taking their civic duty seriously.

Thank you to all of our family, friends and the community for their prayers and support through this hard time.

Jesus Paniagua, Alicia's father had custody of Alicia since she was 4 years old. She was not a party girl as she was portrayed. She was in 3 different church choirs and loved going camping, fishing and making everyone smile. She cared about all her friends, family and school mates.

She loved to sing and dance and take care of all the little kids around her. Jesus and Alicia traveled to Disneyland Mexico, the East coast and West Coast and many places in between. She was looking forward to graduating this year from KIPP Denver Collegiate High School. We know she will be with her graduating class in spirit.

The way Alicia was killed was unimaginable. I miss her so much I miss having her around, saying prayers at night and her general silliness. She was my whole life. There is a hole in my heart that will never be filled. She will always be on my mind. She will never be forgotten. Her birthday would have been Saturday February 9th. The tragedy will pass but Alicia will live in our hearts forever. Thank you to the press and media for respecting our privacy during the last 2 years.