



DenverDA

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NEWS RELEASE

April 21, 2015

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MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN 1981 COLD CASE

Yesterday, defendant **Hector Bencomo-Hinojos** (dob: 10-15-1959) plead guilty in a 1981 sexual homicide case. The case, filed in 2013, was marked by being the 100th case filed in the Cold Case Project.

Bencomo-Hinojos was originally charged with *first-degree murder after deliberation (F1)* and *first-degree murder, felony murder-sexual assault (F1)* in the death of 32-year old Patricia Beard.

Yesterday's plea dismissed the first degree murder counts and had a plea to one count of Second Degree Murder (F2) and one count of First Degree Kidnapping (F2). Each substantive count had a crime of violence count attached to it. The parties agreed to a stipulated sentence of 48 years (24 years per count) in DOC plus one year of mandatory parole per count (as was required by law in 1981).

Bencomo-Hinojos will be sentenced on June 8 at 1:30.

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The filing of a criminal charge is merely a formal accusation that an individual(s) committed a crime(s) under Colorado laws. A defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. *See Colo. RPC 3.6*

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