



***NEWS RELEASE*** –

March 21, 2017

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**FUGITIVE IN 1977 MURDER BACK IN DENVER FOR PROSECUTION**

A man charged with murder in 1977 for the shooting death of another man at a downtown Denver bar was found in Texas and has been returned to Denver for prosecution.

**Benito Soto** (dob: 04-23-1932) is charged with one count of *murder in the first degree* (F1) for the shooting death of Armando Garcia. The charge was filed in September 1977.

The charge alleges that on the night of June 21, 1977, Soto shot and killed Mr. Garcia at the Denampa Bar on Larimer Street. Soto was identified as the killer at the time of the shooting, an at-large case was filed, and a warrant was issued for his arrest. The defendant fled Denver soon after the shooting and the case went cold because Soto's whereabouts remained unknown.

In recent months, the Fugitive Unit of the Denver Police Department located Benito Soto living in Texas. The Denver District Attorney's Cold Case Unit re-opened the case. Crucial witnesses were re-interviewed and Soto himself was interviewed in Texas by a Denver DPD Cold Case detective and a Denver DA cold case investigator. A Governor's Warrant was issued and Soto was returned to Denver in March.

This is the oldest case the Denver DA's Cold Case Unit has prosecuted to date.

Soto is being held without bail in Denver city jail. He was advised in court on March 14. A preliminary hearing has been scheduled for April 21, 2017, in Denver District Courtroom 5G at 1:30 p.m.