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Man Charged with Fatal Stabbing of Good Samaritan in Long Beach

A 19-year-old man has been charged with fatally stabbing a good Samaritan who attempted to detain him for violating a domestic violence restraining order, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Edson Eduardo Rufino (dob 3/15/01) of Signal Hill faces one felony count of murder, two felony counts of assault with a deadly weapon, a knife, as well as one misdemeanor count each of contempt of court and resisting arrest.

Rufino pleaded not guilty to the charges today and is scheduled to return to court on May 12 in Department S18 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Long Beach Branch. Case NA114241 was filed on April 7.

The defendant was allegedly in violation of a restraining order when visiting his girlfriend on April 2 at her mother's home, prosecutors said. When the mother called police, Rufino reportedly threatened the girlfriend's brother and another visitor to the home with a knife, prosecutors added.

Rufino fled into another home where Leandro Maza allegedly helped to try to keep him detained as they waited for police. The defendant reportedly pushed his way out of the home and fatally stabbed Maza, 31, prosecutors said.

If convicted as charged, Rufino faces a possible maximum sentence of life in state prison. Bail is set at $2 million.

The case remains under investigation by the Long Beach Police Department.

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.