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NEWS RELEASE

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Man Pleads Guilty to Five Murders in Antelope Valley

A 44-year-old man has pleaded guilty to murdering two men, a woman and her two children, then torching a Quartz Hills home during a bloody rampage seven years ago, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Steve Kwon entered his plea late yesterday in case BA361224 as a jury was being picked for his trial.

Kwon and co-defendant Jae Shim, 46, pleaded guilty to the first-degree murders of Shim's ex-wife Jenny Young Park, 34; her daughter, Jamie, 13; her son, Justin, 11; a relative, Joseph Ciganek, 60; and Young's boyfriend, Si Young Yoon, also 34. Both men also pleaded guilty to one count of arson of an inhabited structure.

The five victims were brutally stabbed and bludgeoned to death on June 23, 2008. The two children, along with their mother, also were set on fire.

Deputy District Attorney Beth Silverman with the Major Crimes Division, who prosecuted the case along with Deputy District Attorneys Tannaz Mokayef and Eileen Kim, said Shim became enraged that his ex-wife was recently engaged to Yoon.

Shim enlisted the help of Kwon, a lifelong friend from Korea to murder the victims. The wife of Joseph Ciganek, Young Park's cousin, also was an intended victim, but survived because she was not home when the crimes occurred.

In February, Shim also admitted the special circumstances of lying in wait and multiple murders and that he personally used a Samurai sword and baseball bat to stab and beat his ex-wife and the other victims to death.

As part of his plea agreement, Shim helped lead authorities to the remains of Yoon, who had been missing since 2008. His remains were located in December 2014 in Mexico.

Both men are scheduled to be sentenced on Aug. 21. Shim faces five consecutive terms of life in prison without the possibility of parole, while Kwon faces 125 years to life.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

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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 seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.