

Jackie Lacey

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NEWS RELEASE

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Torture, False Imprisonment Charges Filed After Woman is Found Locked in Lancaster Shed

A 61-year-old man and his 50-year-old girlfriend have been charged with torture and other charges after the man's sister was found locked in a storage shed in Lancaster, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Carolyn Yeh said Elias Abdurahman (dob 12/15/53) and Sara Kebede Tadesse (dob 8/3/65) face one count each of false imprisonment by violence; torture; assault with a deadly weapon, a cane; and dependent adult abuse with special allegations that they personally inflicted great bodily injury.

Arraignment in case MA067024 is scheduled today in Department A1 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Antelope Valley Branch.

On September 22, Los Angeles County sheriff deputies investigating reports of screaming sounds discovered the 54-year-old victim locked in a storage shed in the backyard of a house on the 45,000 block of East 2nd Street, the prosecutor said. The woman was reportedly frail, malnourished and had fresh and old wounds, the prosecutor added.

If convicted as charged, both defendants face a possible maximum sentence of life in state prison.

The recommended bail for Abdurahman and Tadesse is more than \$1.1 million.

The case remains under investigation by the Sheriff's Department, Lancaster Station.

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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.