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NEWS RELEASE

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Palmdale Man Found Guilty in Fatal Beating of 8-Year-Old Boy

A Palmdale man was found guilty today of fatally beating his girlfriend's 8-year-old son, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Jurors deliberated for eight hours before finding Isauro Aguirre, 37, guilty of first-degree murder and finding the special circumstance allegation of torture true.

Deputy District Attorneys Jon Hatami and Scott Yang prosecuted the case.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge George Lomeli scheduled the penalty phase of the case to begin on Nov. 27 in Department 107 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center. Aguirre faces the death penalty or life in prison without the possibility of parole.

According to evidence presented at the trial, the defendant participated in the severe abuse of Gabriel Fernandez for months leading to his death on May 24, 2013. The abuse inflicted on the boy included forcing him to eat cat feces, shooting him in the face and groin with a BB gun and locking him in a small container "box" for days, according to witness testimony.

On May 22, 2013, Gabriel suffered injuries that included a fractured skull, several broken ribs and burns at the hands of Aguirre. The boy died two days later. Prosecutors said that the defendant hated the boy because he believed Gabriel was gay.

The boy's mother, Pearl Sinthia Fernandez, 34, also is accused of participating in the torture and killing of her son. She faces one count of murder with the special circumstance allegation of torture and is scheduled for a pretrial conference on Dec. 6.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Special Victims Bureau investigated the case.

[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.