

Jackie Lacey

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NEWS RELEASE

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Dec. 15, 2014

Montebello Man Charged with Wife's Murder

A Montebello father of four was charged today with murder and kidnapping after his wife's body was discovered in the trunk of the family car and an Amber Alert was issued for his children, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Daniel Diego Perez (dob 1/9/71) is scheduled to be arraigned after 1:30 p.m. today at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center, Department 30, in case BA432148. Prosecutors are asking his bail be set at \$1.4 million. He is charged with one count of murder and four counts of kidnapping.

Deputy District Attorney Miji Vellakkattel with the Family Violence Division is prosecuting the case.

Perez is charged with killing his 39-year-old wife, Erica, on or about Dec. 5. Her body was discovered Dec. 10 stuffed in the trunk of a car that was parked near the family's Montebello home.

Police issued a statewide Amber Alert and Perez was located in El Cajon on Thursday. He was arrested near Santee following a police pursuit and standoff. His four children, who were in the car, were recovered safely.

If convicted, Perez faces up to life in state prison.

The case remains under investigation by Montebello Police 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 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.