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NEWS RELEASE

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Jury Recommends Death for Felon Convicted of 2012 Triple Murder in Downey

A jury today recommended that a man convicted of killing two women and a man in Downey nearly eight years ago be sentenced to death, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Jade Douglas Harris, 37, was convicted last month of three counts of first-degree murder, two counts of attempted murder, four counts of kidnapping for carjacking and one count of felon with a firearm.

The jury also found true the special circumstance allegations of multiple murders and murder during the commission of a burglary, carjacking and kidnapping.

Sentencing is scheduled on April 21 in Department D of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Norwalk Branch.

Deputy District Attorney John McKinney of the Major Crimes Division prosecuted the case.

Harris fatally shot Josimar Rojas, 26, Irene Cardenas Reyes, 35, and Susana Perez Ruelas, 34, on Oct. 24, 2012, after responding to an online advertisement for a vehicle for sale.

According to evidence presented at trial, Rojas and Reyes were killed at a Downey business called United States Fire Protection. Both were bound and placed on their knees before being fatally shot in the head.

The defendant then kidnapped Perez Ruelas and her 13-year-old son and forced her to drive to a nearby home where the vehicle was located. Once there, Harris shot Perez Ruelas and then her son, who survived his injuries.

Harris was found a day later and arrested.

The defendant had been released from prison three months before the killings, after serving an eight-year sentence for a takeover robbery, the prosecutor said.

Case BA400165 was investigated by the Downey 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.