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NEWS RELEASE

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Four Charged with Capital Murder for Azusa Killing

Four men have been charged with killing a man and dumping his body in a canyon on Monday, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Hercules Dimitrios Balaskas (dob 5/8/99), Matthew Martin Capiendo Luzon (dob 10/10/96), Francisco Amigon (dob 1/23/99) and Jacob Hunter Elmendorf (dob 3/10/99) have each been charged with three counts in case KA118273: first-degree murder with special circumstances, first-degree residential robbery and kidnapping.

The felony complaint includes three special circumstance allegations of lying in wait and murder during the commission of a kidnapping and robbery.

Additionally, the charging document alleges that Balaskas personally used a deadly and dangerous weapon, a metal chair, during the commission of the murder, robbery and kidnapping. Furthermore, the complaint alleges Luzon personally used a deadly and dangerous weapon, a rock and broken glass pipe, during the murder, robbery and kidnapping.

Balaskas, Amigon and Elmendorf were scheduled to be arraigned today, but the court appearance was continued to June 6 in Department N of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Pomona Branch.

Luzon remains out of custody.

Prosecutors allege Balaskas, Luzon, Amigon and Elmendorf attacked Julian Hamori-Andrade on May 28. The four defendants then allegedly kidnapped, robbed and killed the victim and dumped his body in Azusa Canyon, prosecutors added.

If convicted as charged, each of the defendants faces the death penalty or life in state prison without the possibility of parole. The decision whether to seek capital punishment will be made at a later date.

The case is being investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's 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.