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NEWS RELEASE

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Four Plead in Downey Murder, Home Invasion Robbery Case

Four men pleaded no contest today in connection with a 2016 home invasion in Downey in which the homeowner died, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Paul Darvis Misikei, 22, and Sakaopo Atanasio Folau, 20, both entered the plea to one count of second-degree murder.

Codefendants Henry Willie Sao, 31, and Michael Anthony Harrod (dob 5/6/91) both pleaded no contest to one count of first-degree home invasion robbery.

Deputy District Attorney Robert Villa said Sao and Harrod were immediately sentenced to six years in state prison.

Sentencing for Misikei and Folau is scheduled for Jan. 16 in Department T of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Norwalk Branch. Both defendants face 15 years to life in state prison.

On Jan. 17, 2016, the four defendants went to the Downey home of Jim Rudometkin, 59, prosecutors said.

While at the residence, Misikei and Folau forced their way into Rudometkin's home. Shortly thereafter, Sao also entered the home, the prosecutor said.

As this was occurring, a neighbor saw the attack and called police, according to the prosecutor. Harrod, who was the getaway driver then fled.

When police arrived at the home, the defendants attempted to flee the scene, however, Misikei and Sao were soon located and arrested, the prosecutor said. Folau and Harrod were apprehended days later.

When police entered the victim's home, they found Rudometkin bound and unresponsive. The victim was subsequently pronounced dead at the scene due to a heart attack, the prosecutor said.

Case VA141024 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.