



# S.J. medical examiner details gruesome scene

*Woman had been stabbed 55 times*

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STOCKTON - The focus on two men accused of killing a Tracy woman in August shifted Thursday from their status as a married couple to the bloody murder scene they're charged with leaving behind.

Robert and Jorge Morgan stand accused of killing Cynthia Ramos, 58, on Aug. 6 in her trailer at Green Oaks Mobile Home Park. San Joaquin County's medical examiner gave shocking testimony in court of Ramos' violent death.

"She was killed over and over and over," Bennett Omalu said, explaining that Ramos appeared to have fought back as she was stabbed 55 times, struck 13 times with something hard and strangled with twine or a small rope.

Omalu visited the crime scene after the body was discovered and later performed Ramos' autopsy. San Joaquin County Deputy District Attorney Valli Israels asked Omalu on the witness stand if there is a name for this type of death.

"We refer to it as an overkill," he said. "It is forensically excessive."

The testimony came in the preliminary hearing of Robert Morgan, 39, and his 24-year-old husband, Jorge Morgan. San Joaquin County Superior Court Judge Bernard Garber is overseeing the case.

Testimony is set to end today when Garber could announce whether the Morgans will stand trial on murder and robbery charges that make them eligible to spend the rest of their natural lives in state prison.

Since their arrests, Robert Morgan has waged a losing battle for time at the jail to plan a defense strategy with his husband. The two are kept separated.

The Morgans first met and their love sparked in a cell at Mule Creek State Prison. They became legal domestic partners one year ago, Robert Morgan said in a letter to The Record.

Their partnership wasn't discussed directly in Thursday's testimony, which began with Ramos' roommate describing how she found the bloody scene.

Mary Arafiles said she rented a room from Ramos. Arafiles left that morning while Ramos was on the phone.

She returned that afternoon to see two men - whom she identified in court as the Morgans - walking away from the mobile home. Robert Morgan carried Ramos' locking suitcase, she said.

Ramos kept her valuables in the suitcase, which she referred to as a safe. Arafiles reluctantly testified that Ramos used methamphetamine. Ramos had told her that Robert Morgan stole \$700 worth of drugs one month earlier.

The investigation took Tracy police a short distance across the mobile home park, where the Morgans lived with Robert Morgan's mother.

Tracy police Detective Mark Bergman said he found a bloody knife in plumbing for a makeshift toilet in the Morgans' mobile home. He also said he found women's jewelry apparently dropped through a hole in the floor of the Morgans' mobile home.

Thursday's graphic testimony left Ramos' relatives with blanched faces. Before disturbing details were discussed, the prosecutor warned them, saying it might be a good time to leave. None of them moved.

About a dozen of them absorbed the pathologist's shocking revelations about the crime. Some wiped tears as he described how the knife had severed Ramos' collarbone and how she drowned in her blood.

During the afternoon court recess, Ramos' family and friends held one another in the hallway. Some openly cried.

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