



## Men accused of murdering Tracy woman plead not guilty

by TP staff

Aug 31, 2009 | 3324 views



STOCKTON — A married couple accused of murdering a Tracy woman pleaded not guilty today at a hearing where a judge also ordered them back in court on Oct. 26 for a preliminary trial.

Robert Morgan and his husband Jorge Morgan stand accused of stabbing to death 58-year-old Cynthia Ramos in her trailer home on Aug. 6. They face enhancements for robbery, burglary, lying in wait and for two prior felony convictions.

Most of the brief hearing was spent talking about the suspects' seating arrangement in court and whether they could share a cell in San Joaquin County Jail. The two men asked San Joaquin County Superior Court Judge Bernard Garber if they could sit next to each other in court so they could talk about their defense.

"We're not actually getting a fair defense, your honor," Robert Morgan told the judge, who scheduled a hearing on Sept. 8 so they could talk about whether the suspects will get to sit by each other and their living arrangements in jail.

Since their arrest, the Morgans have sat two or three seats apart from each other in the jury box. Garber said usually co-defendants are allowed to talk to each other and sit side-by-side in court.

In jail, Jorge Morgan apparently spends his time in solitary confinement because of an order to keep the pair apart to prevent them from having sex while in custody, according to prosecutor Valli Israels. The stay-apart order stems from a California law that requires inmates to stay in separate cells if it's likely that they'd have sex. The statute is supposed to prevent rape, but applies to consensual sex, too, Israels said.

The victim's family showed up today to watch the proceeding. One of Ramos' daughters, Kimberley Elisan-McKinney, held a framed photo of the victim. About a dozen other friends and relatives also showed up, wearing white shirts. Ramos had four sons, two daughters and 11 grandchildren.

If found guilty of murder, the Morgans could spend the rest of their lives behind bars under California's three-strikes law, which qualifies people for a life sentence after three serious felony convictions. Robert Morgan, 39, served a prison sentence for stealing a car and other theft. Jorge Morgan, 24, was also convicted a theft. The pair met at Deuel Vocational Institution, a men's prison in Tracy, and registered as

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domestic partners weeks after their release last fall.

- Contact Tracy Press reporter Jennifer Wadsworth at 830-4225 or [jwadsworth@tracypress.com](mailto:jwadsworth@tracypress.com).

## **Comments**

*cindy's friend*

September 03, 2009

This is so disturbing that these two evil subjects even get the opportunity to request such. First they don't want a certain judge, now this crap. This is a hearing about MURDER! NOT about comfort. There are lots of Husband and Wives in the prison system. I don't see any of them sharing cells?? Sounds to me as if they planned this easy way just to be together the rest of their LIFE! Free ROOM, FOOD, and thinking they'll be together, NOT!! Stop wasting time and money on these creeps. Let the next Hearing have some meaningful results for this family, they have been through enough!!

*vicster0103*

August 31, 2009

Who really gives a \$\*#@ about them sitting next to each other or their living arrangements in jail? These two pieces of scum should have been thinking about this when they were murdering my friend of 25 years! This is not CLUB FED! I don't get it. There is a CA law that prohibits them from being in the same cell. THAT ENDS IT! Why are they wasting taxpayer's money on this? If they didn't get a piece of each other before they were arrested TOO BAD! Let's see. . .Let them sit next to each other so they can hold hands? They should be discussing their defense with their attorneys before they come into the courtroom! Let Cindy rest in peace please! And to her family, Stay strong as you know your mom would want you to! You are all in our hearts and minds! Too bad the courts don't do an "eye for an eye" sentenceing. Let them suffer the same way they made Cindy suffer! And no, NOT TOGETHER!

*RedHotChilliPeppers*

August 31, 2009

Why are we wasting our tax money during a depression? These two reminded us of what happened between Bonnie and Clyde when their small time heists started gettin outta control they found a way to save the taxpayers a dime.

*anonymous*

August 31, 2009

What happened to the death penalty? They could share one last needle together.

ConcernedNeighbor

August 31, 2009

Couple of lovebirds in jail. Jailbirds will be provided well at the taxpayer's expense while many Americans go hungry.

Where is the justice in that? If freed, I hope the Defendants will adopt the Lovebirds?

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Tinfoil

August 31, 2009

to TracyCAcommuter: I think the one who plays the woman has to sit on a pillow.

TracyCAcommuter

August 31, 2009

I think we need to stop judging others sexual preferences. Our jails are overcrowded, let them share a bed! In court, I am sure they wouldn't mind sharing a chair, I am just not sure who is going to sit in the chair and who is going to sit on his lap?

Tinfoil

August 31, 2009

'Robert Morgan and his husband Jorge Morgan'

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Thanks so much for that news. I've been wondering since this saga began who plays the woman. I had Jorge tagged from the git-go but it turns out I was wrong. What a couple of sweethearts.

ken5131

August 31, 2009

This is disgusting that the court, (taxpayer monies), even sets time aside to consider these guys needs. A woman has been murdered here! This is another example of political correctness ran amuck. What about this womans family, and also the people who are being forced to witness these two men's sick and perverted acts. What about them? The court needs to tell them to sit down and shut up.

JerryLeeLewis

August 31, 2009

That is where the 'happy couple' originally met? Right?

JerryLeeLewis

August 31, 2009

I wonder if they will eventually find separate "buddies" in jail?