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**INTERPOL RED NOTICE RE-ISSUED FOR BROCKTON MURDERER TRIED
IN ECUADOR**

BROCKTON – Interpol has re-issued a red notice for a man who murdered his wife and toddler-aged son in Brockton in 2011, Plymouth County District Attorney Timothy J. Cruz has announced.

On February 13, 2011, the bodies of Maria Avelina Palaguachi-Cela, 25, and her two year-old son, Brian Cuanga Palaguachi, were found in a dumpster near their residence at 427 Warren Avenue in Brockton. An autopsy determined that both mother and child died as a result of blunt force trauma to the head and brain. On February 14, 2011, now 55-year-old Luis Guaman fled from JFK Airport in New York to Ecuador.

On February 18, 2011, investigators sought and obtained an arrest warrant charging Guaman here in Plymouth County with the murders. A copy of the arrest warrant was hand delivered to Ecuadorian embassy officials in Boston. The country of Ecuador refused to return Guaman to the United States for prosecution, citing that its constitution barred extradition of its own citizens. DA Cruz strenuously objected and called upon then Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and other national legislators to demand Ecuador return Guaman here for prosecution. If convicted in Massachusetts, Guaman faced life in prison without the possibility of parole. In Ecuador, he faced 16 to 25 years in prison. Against DA Cruz's intense requests, in 2012, an Ecuadoran court held a two-day trial after which Guaman was found guilty and sentenced to serve 25 years in prison.

As part of efforts back in 2011, investigators worked with the FBI to seek and obtain an Interpol Red Notice for Guaman. Every five years, the DA must re-validate that the arrest warrant is still active, and the office is committed to extraditing Guaman. This week, the office received notice from Interpol that Guaman remains on the list.

Now, 15 years later, DA Cruz remains committed to the pursuit of one day having Guaman brought to the United States to face criminal prosecution in Plymouth County.

“As long as I am District Attorney of Plymouth County my office will never stop demanding that Luis Guaman be brought back to our community to answer for his heinous crimes,” DA Cruz said. “While I maintain respect for Ecuador’s legal system,

true justice can only be sought in this matter by having Guaman stand trial in our county and prosecuted for the brutal murders of a caring mother and her child.”