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*Solicitor, Ninth Judicial Circuit*

**For Immediate Release  
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## **Rolando Ocampo Pleads Guilty to Killing His Estranged Lover and Burying Him Behind the La Bomba Bar in North Charleston**

Late yesterday, Rolando Aldama Ocampo A/K/A Epifanio Martinez Beltran (DOB 4/19/1980) pled guilty to Voluntary Manslaughter for the November 2015 killing of Jose Rolando Martinez Castro A/K/A Wilmer Fernando Serrano Mata. The State and the Defendant negotiated the maximum manslaughter sentence of 30 years. Ocampo will serve 85% of the 30-year sentence and will then be deported to Mexico because he is in the United States illegally. Attorney Mark Peper represented Ocampo.

On April 12, 2016, the Victim's body was located in a shallow grave buried behind the La Bomba Bar located at 5020 Rivers Ave. in North Charleston. Ocampo was the manager of that business and lived in an apartment on top of the bar. A forensic pathologist with MUSC determined the cause of death was a stab wound to the chest. Additionally, despite advanced stages of decomposition, the pathologist determined that the victim suffered a beating before his death and received additional stab wounds to the hands and to his left eye.

Cooperating witnesses indicated that the Defendant and the Victim had been lovers and that Ocampo grew jealous when the Victim struck up a relationship with Ocampo's niece. Various records showed the Defendant and Victim planned to meet with one another early in the morning on November 19, 2015. The victim was never heard from again. Authorities discovered that at approximately 10am on that same morning, SCE&G was called to the backyard of La Bomba to repair a gas line that the Defendant ruptured in his first attempt to bury the Victim's body. Witnesses and records also revealed that he Defendant bought a large amount of pool salt to pour over the Victim's body in the shallow grave. The Defendant eventually led authorities to the Victim's body and later described his lover's quarrel with the Victim.

Assistant Solicitor Culver Kidd prosecuted the case and stated: "We were relentless in finding witnesses to help pull this case together. I hope this case will show our Hispanic and Latino community that every life is precious to the Solicitor's Office."

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