



OFFICE OF THE MERCER COUNTY PROSECUTOR

ANGELO J. ONOFRI
Prosecutor

VELDON HARRIS
Chief of County Detectives

240 West State Street, 8th Floor
P.O. Box 8068
Trenton, New Jersey 08650-0068
Phone: (609) 989-6350
Fax: (609) 989-0161
mercercountyprosecutor.com

DORIS M. GALUCHIE
First Assistant Prosecutor

MICHAEL J. NOVEMBRE
Deputy Chief of County Detectives

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 24, 2017

CONTACT: Casey A. DeBlasio
(609) 989-6379

Ewing Man Indicted for Murder

Mercer County Prosecutor Angelo J. Onofri reported that a Mercer County grand jury returned a seven-count indictment yesterday charging a Ewing man with killing his girlfriend last August.

Carlos Ortiz, age 51, of Ewingville Road, was indicted on charges of first-degree murder, second-degree aggravated assault, two counts of third-degree possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, two counts of fourth-degree unlawful possession of a weapon and third-degree theft by unlawful taking. He remains in jail in lieu of \$1 million bail.

Ewing police responded to a residence on Ewingville Road just before 3 a.m. on August 17, 2016, to perform a welfare check after receiving a call. Upon arrival, police found 51-year-old Rufina Castro lying deceased in her bedroom. An investigation by the Mercer County Homicide Task Force and the Ewing Police Department revealed that Ortiz and Castro got into an argument at her home on the prior day. Ortiz hit Castro in the head with a glass beer bottle and then strangled her with a cell phone charging cord.

Assistant Prosecutor Sean D. McMurtry presented the case to the grand jury.

Despite having been indicted, every defendant is presumed innocent until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

###