



BUTTE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY



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PRESS RELEASE

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Nightclub Killer Held to Answer After Preliminary Hearing

A Butte County Superior Court judge today found there was sufficient evidence to send a 29-year-old man to trial for the December 30, 2021 murder of Alicia Flores, 21, of Corning.

Fernando Palomares, 29 of Vina was in court today where the prosecution presented evidence at a preliminary hearing for charges of murder, felon in possession of a firearm, and felon in possession of ammunition.

Butte County District Attorney Mike Ramsey said the evidence presented at the hearing today showed that on the night of December 30, 2021, at approximately 9:40 p.m., Palomares and his 29-year-old girlfriend, along with Alicia Flores, 21, arrived together at the Centerfolds nightclub north of Chico in a white SUV. They all went into the club at approximately 9:40 p.m. and were seen walking out of the nightclub about an hour later.

Ramsey said at 11:03 p.m. Palomares' girlfriend walked back into Centerfolds alone and asked the clerk to call 911 because her friend had been shot. In response, a patron went out and found Flores shot and unresponsive in the backseat of the white SUV. Centerfolds employees took Flores out and attempted CPR in the parking lot.

Ramsey said Butte County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched and located Flores bleeding in the parking lot. Evidence showed Flores died of multiple gunshot wounds including a gunshot wound to the head. A search of the SUV revealed documents with Palomares' name and multiple rounds of fired and unfired 9 mm ammunition. Palomares was nowhere to be found in the area.

Palomares was later found at 4:10 a.m. the following morning approximately six miles away from Centerfolds, walking in the area of Highway 99 and Rowles Road. Palomares was detained and claimed he had been at his Vina home all night and had just gone "for a walk" that morning,

Subsequent searches found a hat belonging to Palomares and a 9 mm semi-automatic handgun in fields just to the north and west of Centerfolds. Ballistics testing confirmed the firearm was the gun used to kill Flores.

Ramsey said Palomares had been on parole since May 2021, after serving time in prison for a 2013 stabbing conviction in Chico in which the victim was badly injured, but survived. Palomares is scheduled for further arraignment and jury trial setting on June 16, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. He remains in custody in the Butte County Jail without bail.

