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NEWS RELEASE

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Man Charged with Capital Murder in 2015 Shooting of San Dimas Restaurant Owner

A man has been charged with capital murder for the 2015 shooting of a San Dimas restaurant owner, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Sergey S. Gutsu (dob 3/17/92) of Antelope in Sacramento County pleaded not guilty yesterday afternoon to one count of murder with a special circumstance allegation that the crime was committed during a robbery, making him eligible for the death penalty.

He also faces one count of second-degree robbery and two counts of assault with a semiautomatic firearm, all felonies. The charges include firearm allegations.

A preliminary hearing setting for case BA456525 is scheduled on July 12 in Department 30 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center.

On June 2, 2015, Gutsu is accused of fatally shooting 62-year-old Pravin Patel during a robbery of the Quiznos restaurant operated by the victim. He allegedly robbed the business at gunpoint and then shot the victim after being confronted outside, said Deputy District Attorney Steve Dickman of the Organized Crime Division.

He also allegedly threatened two customers inside the restaurant.

Gutsu was identified as the suspect in the robbery while he was in custody for a criminal case in Sonoma County, the prosecutor said. Charges were filed in Los Angeles County on Aug. 24, 2017.

If convicted as charged, the defendant faces a possible maximum sentence of life in state prison without the possibility of parole or death. A decision on whether to seek the death penalty will be made at a later date.

The court denied bail for Gutsu.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Homicide Bureau.

[About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#)

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.