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NEWS RELEASE

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**Jury Recommends Death Penalty for Palmdale Man
Who Murdered 8-Year-Old Boy**

A jury today recommended the death penalty for a Palmdale man convicted of fatally beating his girlfriend's 8-year-old son four years ago, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

The panel deliberated for about three days before deciding that Isauro Aguirre, 37, should be sentenced to death. Aguirre will return to court on March 8 for sentencing before Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge George Lomeli in Department 107 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center.

Aguirre was found guilty of first-degree murder and the special circumstance allegation of intentional murder by torture on Nov. 15.

Deputy District Attorneys Jon Hatami and Scott Yang prosecuted the case.

According to evidence presented at the trial, the defendant severely abused Gabriel Fernandez for months leading to his death on May 22, 2013. Gabriel suffered numerous injuries that included a fractured skull, 12 broken ribs and burns at the hands of Aguirre. Prosecutors said the defendant hated the boy because he believed Gabriel was gay.

The boy's mother, Pearl Sinthia Fernandez, 34, also is accused of participating in the torture and killing of her son. She faces one count of murder with the special circumstance allegation of intentional murder by torture and is scheduled for a pretrial hearing on Jan. 16 in Department 107 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center.

Case BA425180 was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Special Victims 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.