



## OFFICE OF THE MERCER COUNTY PROSECUTOR

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
May 26, 2016

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### **Trenton Man Sentenced to 30 Years for Murder**

**TRENTON** – A Trenton man was sentenced this morning to 30 years in state prison with no parole eligibility for the June 2014 murder of 49-year-old Keisha L. Alexander, Acting Mercer County Prosecutor Angelo J. Onofri reported.

Jorge Rodriguez, 22, of Mulberry Street, was sentenced by Mercer County Superior Court Judge Darlene J. Pereksta. He pleaded guilty to felony murder in April.

“A vast majority of criminal indictments resolve via plea bargain and murder charges are no exception,” Onofri said. “Keisha Alexander suffered a brutal attack at the hands of Jorge Rodriguez and this plea agreement guaranteed that he would be sentenced to a state prison term of 30 years, every day of which he will serve with no parole eligibility.”

At 7:40 a.m. on June 21, 2014, Trenton police responded to an Edgewood Avenue home after a neighbor called 911. Officers found the victim in a locked bathroom, partially clothed and seated on the toilet, slumped against the wall. Alexander was covered in blood and had several puncture wounds about her body. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

As an investigation by the Mercer County Homicide Task Force progressed, Rodriguez was identified as a suspect after he went to Capital Health Regional Medical Center with a laceration to his arm. Rodriguez had blood on his pants and shirt, and his clothing was wet.

Rodriguez was interviewed and ultimately confessed to unlawfully entering the residence, stabbing Alexander and stealing property from her home. Rodriguez further related that he did not know the victim prior to this occasion. Among evidence collected from the scene was a broken knife blade and handle that was covered in blood. DNA testing confirmed that blood found on the defendant's hat and pants, and the knife handle was a combination of Rodriguez's blood and the victim's blood. Blood found on the knife blade was Alexander's blood. Property belonging to the defendant was also found inside the Edgewood Avenue home.

“The dedication and hard work of the detectives and attorneys who investigated and prosecuted this matter resulted in a substantial case against the defendant,” Onofri said. “It is because of this overwhelming evidence that this matter was resolved without a trial and the residents of Mercer County are assured that another murderer will be behind bars for the next few decades.”

Onofri credited Sergeant Brian Egan and Detective Eric Hastings of the homicide task force with leading the investigation. Assistant Prosecutor Kathleen Petrucci prosecuted the case.

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