



# County of San Diego

**STEVEN C. CAMPMAN, M.D.**  
CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER

**DEPARTMENT OF THE MEDICAL EXAMINER**  
5570 OVERLAND AVE, STE 101, SAN DIEGO, CA 92123-1215  
(858) 694-2895 • FAX (858) 495-5956  
<http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/me>

**JONATHAN R. LUCAS, M.D.**  
CHIEF DEPUTY MEDICAL EXAMINER

CALL INFO	NAME OF DECEASED <b>JUAREZ MENDOZA , Eleuterio</b>		AKA	HIO <input type="checkbox"/>	CASE NUMBER <b>2014-01138</b>	
	INVESTIGATOR Christopher Burton	REPORTED BY Omar Hassanein	REPORTING AGENCY UCSD Medical Center		PREVIOUS WAIVE #	
	CALL DATE AND TIME 5/12/2014 1817	ARRIVAL DATE AND TIME 5/12/2014 1850		RETURN DATE AND TIME 5/12/2014 2100		
DECEDENT	DATE AND TIME OF DEATH 5/12/2014 1804		DATE OF BIRTH 8/4/1960	AGE 53 Years	GENDER Male	RACE Hispanic Mexican
	RESIDENCE (STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP) 945 Marengo Place, Santa Ana, CA, 92703			COUNTY Orange	LAST SEEN ALIVE	
	COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE Orange	OCCUPATION Farmer			PAID AUTOPSY <input type="checkbox"/>	
DEATH	LOCATION OF DEATH UCSD Medical Center			TYPE OF PLACE Hospital		
	ADDRESS (STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP) 200 W. Arbor Drive, San Diego, CA, 92103					
	<p>SUMMARY</p> <p>The decedent was a 53-year-old married Hispanic male who was incarcerated at the San Diego downtown jail facility. On the evening of 05/12/14, he was in the process of doing pull-ups when he was witnessed to become unresponsive and fell to the ground. 9-1-1 was called and first responders found him with an asystolic rate. He was transported to UCSD Medical Center where an exploratory laparotomy was performed. During the procedure, staff discovered intra-abdomen hemorrhage and procedures were performed to stop the bleeding. Following the procedure he was admitted into the intensive care unit in critical condition. He went into cardiac arrest and life saving measures were applied but after vigorous attempts to revive him failed, his death was pronounced.</p> <p>Medical Examiner's jurisdiction invoked according to the California Government Code 27491: Deaths in prison or while under sentence.</p>					
INCIDENT	LOCATION OF INCIDENT		INCIDENT PLACE TYPE Other			
	ADDRESS (STREET, CITY, STATE, ZIP)		COUNTY			
	DATE AND TIME OF INCIDENT	INVESTIGATING AGENCY	OFFICER	BADGE #	REPORT #	
	DECEDENT WAS	BELTED No	HELMETED <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	POSITION	ON PRIVATE PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	VEHICLE			LICENSE NUMBER	STATE	
NOTIFICATION	IDENTIFIED BY Jessica Mendoza		METHOD Visual		DATE AND TIME 05/12/2014 1400	
	FUNERAL HOME Continental Funeral Home	PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR False <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		TYPE OF EXAM External Exam	
	NAME OF NOK OR OTHER Maria Romero	RELATIONSHIP Wife	DATE NOTIFIED 5/12/2014		NOTIFIED BY In Person	

**San Diego Medical Examiner**  
**5570 Overland Avenue, Suite#101**  
**San Diego, CA 92123-1206**  
**(858) 694-2895**

**Case Number** : 14-01138  
**Investigator** : Christopher G. Burton  
**Date of Death** : 05/12/2014  
**Date Today** : 07/11/2014

## **INVESTIGATIVE NARRATIVE**

**Decedent:** Eleuterio Juarez Mendoza

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### **Antemortem Events:**

On May 12, 2014 at 2149 hours, I learned the following information from medical records from UCSD Medical Center. The decedent was currently an inmate at the San Diego downtown jail. On the morning of May 12, 2014, he was performing pull-ups and was witnessed to become unresponsive and fall to the ground. 9-1-1 was called and first responders found him with an asystolic rate. Advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) was initiated as he was transported to UCSD Medical Center in acute status. While being evaluated by emergency department staff, and an ultrasound showed positive signs for abdominal bleeding. He was then emergently taken to the operating room where an exploratory laparotomy was performed. During the procedure, staff noted and abdominal variceal bleed which was corrected. Following the procedure, he was admitted into the Intensive Care Unit where staff were beginning follow-up care. During his admission, he went into multisystem organ failure causing his vital signs to become unstable. During the process, he went into cardiac arrest and life-saving measures were re-applied. Despite aggressive resuscitative efforts, his death was pronounced by staff at 1604 hours.

### **Past Medical, Surgical, and Social History:**

On May 12, 2014 at 1934 hours, I learned the following information during a translated personal interview with the decedent's wife, Maria Romero, while at UCSD Medical Center. The decedent had a previous medical history to include alcohol abuse and subsequent liver damage.

### **Scene Description:**

The decedent died while admitted in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit (SICU) of the UCSD Medical Center located at 200 W. Arbor Drive in the city of San Diego. On May 12, 2014 at 1850 hours, I arrived at the hospital where I was met by several members of his family at his bedside in room 11-A.

### **Body Description:**

On May 12, 2014 at 1910 hours, I viewed the decedent as he initially lay partially covered by sheets atop a hospital bed. Upon removal of the coverings, his nude body was found in a supine position. Items of medical intervention included an endotracheal tube, intravenous access, cardiac monitoring pads, pneumatic anti-embolus device on left lower limbs and a Foley catheter. I also noted a central-line placement in his femoral artery. Evidence of a recent abdominal surgery was found with a packed incision site and drains. Most visible areas of his body appeared swollen with edema. A large amount of blood was found throughout his body, likely from the emergent surgery, making it difficult to assess for any trauma. The remainder of this body was unremarkable.

Following my evaluation, a yellow identification band was placed on his ankle. He was then placed into a new white vinyl pouch by 92-Mike personnel M. Vincent with a blue tamper evident seal number 3180440 attached at 2030 hours, and transported to the Medical Examiner's Office.

### **Special Requests:**

None.

**Identification:**

The decedent was identified to me visually by multiple members of his family including his wife, Maria Romero, at his bedside.

**Antemortem Specimens:**

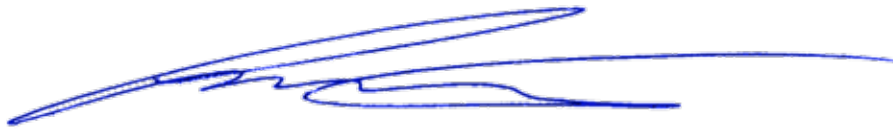
While on scene at UCSD Medical Center, I collected for vials of admission blood samples and placed them in the secure refrigerator.

**Public Administrator:**

Not applicable.

**Other Important Factors:**

None.



**July 11, 2014**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Christopher G. Burton**  
**Medical Examiner Investigator**

**Approved by:** \_\_\_\_\_





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## EXTERNAL EXAMINATION REPORT

<b>Name:</b>	ELEUTERIO JUAREZ MENDOZA	<b>ME#:</b>	14-1138
<b>Place of death:</b>	UCSD Medical Center San Diego, CA 92103	<b>Age:</b>	53 Years
<b>Date of death:</b>	May 12, 2014; 1804 Hours	<b>Sex:</b>	Male
<b>Date of examination:</b>	May 13, 2014; 1245 Hours		

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CAUSE OF DEATH: HEMOPERITONEUM

Due To: RUPTURED INTRAABDOMINAL VARIX

Due To: CIRRHOSIS

Due To: CHRONIC ALCOHOL ABUSE

MANNER OF DEATH: NATURAL

**OPINION:** According to the Investigator's Report, this 53-year-old man was incarcerated at the San Diego downtown jail facility. On the evening of May 12, 2014, while doing pull-ups, he was witnessed to become unresponsive and fall to the ground. 911 was called and he was transported to UCSD Medical Center. An ultrasound showed blood within the abdomen. He was taken to the operating room where a laparotomy identified a ruptured intraabdominal varix, which was subsequently ligated. He was admitted to the intensive care unit; however, his condition continued to decline and he died later that day. He had a history of chronic alcohol abuse with cirrhosis.

The external examination documented an obese man with evidence of an abdominal laparotomy, covered by a wound V.A.C. and packed with laparotomy pads. There was no trauma or evidence of gross natural disease. Toxicological testing detected no alcohol or common drugs of abuse.

Based on the examination findings and the circumstances surrounding the death, as currently understood, the cause of death is hemoperitoneum due to ruptured intraabdominal varix due to cirrhosis due to chronic alcohol abuse, and the manner of death is natural.

ZACHARY O'NEILL, D.O.  
Forensic Pathology Fellow

Date signed:

SUPERVISING PATHOLOGIST:

OTHON J. MENA, M.D.  
Deputy Medical Examiner

Date signed:

**IDENTIFICATION:** The body is identified by two Medical Examiner's identification bands on the right ankle bearing the decedent's name and case number. A hospital identification band is on the right ankle.

**WITNESSES:** Assisting is Forensic Autopsy Specialist Shannan Walker. There are no outside observers.

**CLOTHING:** The body is unclad when initially viewed. No clothing accompanies the body.

**EVIDENCE OF MEDICAL THERAPY:**

1. An endotracheal tube is in place and inserted to 24 cm.
2. An orogastric tube is in place.
3. Defibrillator pads are on the chest.
4. Electrocardiogram pads are on the chest and left arm.
5. There is an 18 inch, vertically oriented, midline abdominal incision, covered by a wound V.A.C., and packed with multiple laparotomy pads.
6. A double lumen intravenous catheter is in the right antecubital fossa.
7. A Foley catheter is in place.
8. A triple lumen intravenous catheter is in the right groin.
9. A sequential compression device is on the left lower leg.

**EXTERNAL EXAMINATION**

**GENERAL:** The body is that of a well-nourished, obese, medium-complexioned male appearing consistent with the listed age of 53 years. The length is 61-1/2 inches, and the weight is 212 pounds as received. The body is well preserved, cold, and has not been embalmed. Rigidity is fully developed in the jaw and extremities. Lividity is pink-purple, nonblanching, and in a posterior distribution.

**HEAD:** The scalp is covered with black hair measuring up to 2 inches on the top of the head. The black moustache measures 3/4 inch. The ears are normally formed and without drainage. The irides are brown, the corneas opaque, and the bulbar and palpebral conjunctivae free of petechiae. The sclerae are icteric. The nose is intact, and the nares are clean and unobstructed. The lips are normally formed. The teeth are natural and in good condition.

**NECK:** The neck is symmetrical and without injury.

**CHEST AND ABDOMEN:** The chest is normally formed, symmetrical, and without palpable masses.

The abdomen is obese and mildly distended. No masses are palpable.

EXTERNAL GENITALIA: The external genitalia are those of a circumcised adult male with both testes palpable in the scrotum.

BACK: The back is straight and symmetrical. The anus is atraumatic.

ARMS: The arms are normally formed. No track marks or ventral wrist scars are noted. The fingernails are trim and clean.

LEGS: The legs are normally formed and have no edema, amputations, or deformity. The toenails are trim and clean.

BODY MARKINGS (SCARS AND TATTOOS):

Scars: The left antecubital fossa has two irregular hypopigmented scars measuring up to 3-1/2 inches. The lateral left hip has a 6 inch, horizontally oriented, hypopigmented scar. The anterior left thigh has a 1 inch, linear, vertically oriented, hypopigmented scar. The left knee has two irregular hypopigmented scars measuring up to 1 inch.

Tattoos: On the chest is "Nimfa Mi Madre Adorada". Extending from the chest to the abdomen is an image of a Native American. Across the back and onto the posterior left arm is "Guerrero". On the back is an image of Our Lady Of Guadalupe and "Recuerdo Mi Querida Madre". On the anterior left forearm is a cross. On the dorsal left hand is illegible writing. On the lateral right arm are the words "Veronica", "Marylee", "Tos", and "Romero".

**EXTERNAL INJURIES**

No injuries are seen.

**SPECIMENS RETAINED**

TOXICOLOGY: Antemortem blood specimens were collected from the hospital. No additional specimens are submitted for toxicology.

HISTOLOGY: No tissue is retained and no specimens are submitted for microscopic examination.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Digital identification photographs and overall photographs are taken.

RADIOGRAPHS: None.

ZO:OJM:clb

D: 5/13/14 T: 5/14/14

Rev. 6/5/14 clb



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## TOXICOLOGY REPORT

Name: **JUAREZ MENDOZA, Eleuterio**  
Medical Examiner Number: **14-01138**  
Date of Death: **05/12/2014**  
Time of Death: **18:04**  
Pathologist: **Zachary O'Neill, D.O. / Othon Mena, M.D.**  
Specimens Received: **Antemortem Blood**  
Date Specimens Received: **05/13/2014**

<u>Test Name (Method of Analysis)</u>	<u>Specimen Tested</u>	<u>Result</u>
<u>Alcohol Analysis (GC/FID-HeadSpace)</u>	Antemortem Blood	
Alcohol (Ethanol)		Not Detected
Acetone, Methanol, Isopropanol		Not Detected
<u>Drugs of Abuse Screen (ELISA)</u>	Antemortem Blood	
Cocaine metabolites		Not Detected
Amphetamines		Not Detected
Opiates		Not Detected
Benzodiazepines		Not Detected
Fentanyl		Not Detected
Cannabinoids		Not Detected
Phencyclidine (PCP)		Not Detected
Oxycodone		Not Detected
Methadone		Not Detected
Zolpidem		Not Detected
Carisoprodol		Not Detected
Buprenorphine		Not Detected

Antemortem blood was collected on 05/12/2014 at 1001 hours

Unless otherwise requested, all specimens will be destroyed six (6) months after the closure of the case by the Medical Examiner

End Results

Approved and Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
06/03/2014  
Iain M. McIntyre, Ph.D.  
Forensic Toxicology Laboratory Manager  
(All Inquiries/Correspondence)

Reviewed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phyllis Mallett  
Toxicologist II