

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

STATE OF WISCONSIN

DA Case No.:2011ML024006

Plaintiff,

vs.

Complaining Witness:

Det. Rodolfo Gomez

Morales-Rodriguez, Annette
1627 South 7th Street C
Milwaukee, WI 53207
DOB: 08/01/1978

Court Case No.:

Defendant,

THE ABOVE NAMED COMPLAINING WITNESS BEING DULY SWORN, ON INFORMATION AND BELIEF STATES THAT:

Count 1: FIRST DEGREE INTENTIONAL HOMICIDE – WHILE ARMED

The above-named defendant on or about Thursday, October 06, 2011, at 1627 S. 7th Street, C, in the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, did cause the death of Maritza Ramirez-Cruz, another human being, with intent to kill that person, contrary to sec. 940.01(1)(a), 939.63(1)(b) and 939.50(3)(a) Wis. Stats.

Upon conviction for this offense, a Class A Felony, the defendant shall be sentenced to imprisonment for life.

And further, invoking the provisions of sec. 939.63(1)(b) Wis. Stats., because the defendant committed this offense while using a dangerous weapon, the maximum term of imprisonment for the felony may be increased by not more than 5 years.

Count 2: FIRST DEGREE INTENTIONAL HOMICIDE-UNBORN CHILD – WHILE ARMED

The above-named defendant on or about Thursday, October 06, 2011, at 1627 S. 7th Street, C, in the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, did cause the death of the unborn child of Maritza Ramirez-Cruz, with intent to kill the mother who was pregnant with that unborn child, that being Maritza Ramirez-Cruz, contrary to sec. 940.01(1)(b), 939.63(1)(b) 939.50(3)(a) Wis. Stats.

Upon conviction for this offense, a Class A Felony, the defendant shall be sentenced to imprisonment for life.

And further, invoking the provisions of sec. 939.63(1)(b) Wis. Stats., because the defendant committed this offense while using a dangerous weapon, the maximum term of imprisonment for the felony may be increased by not more than 5 years.

1) On October 6, 2011 at 1:56 p.m., Police Officer Jessica Cannon was sent to 1627 S. 7th Street and met with Annette Morales-Rodriguez who stated she had just given still birth to a child in the shower. Both Annette Morales-Rodriguez and the placenta were conveyed to St. Francis

Hospital. Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office Investigator Ann Marie Eschle conveyed the body of the baby to the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office.

2) At St. Francis Hospital Annette Morales-Rodriguez was spoken to by Detective Robert Rehbein. She told Detective Rehbein that about 12:30 p.m. on October 6, 2011, she felt abdominal pain while taking a shower at her residence at 1627 S. 7th Street. She began bleeding from her vaginal area. She then observed the top of a baby's head at her vaginal opening. She went into the living room and gave birth to the child in her living room. The baby was not breathing and she called 911. The fire department then arrived. She stated she did not know she was pregnant. Following the interview with Detective Rehbein, Morales-Rodriguez left St. Francis Hospital before being fully examined, against medical advice.

3) The placenta was recovered by Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office Investigator Ann Marie Eschle at St. Francis Hospital and taken to the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office.

4) On Friday, October 7, 2011, an autopsy was done on the baby and an examination of the placenta was done by Dr. Wieslawa Tlomak, the Deputy Medical Examiner at the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office. The result of that autopsy revealed that the baby was not the product of a natural birth. The mother's uterus was attached to the baby and had been cut out by force. Also there were parts of ovaries attached to the uterus and placenta. The baby was 38 to 42 weeks in development when it died. The baby died as a result of the baby's mother's death according to Dr. Wieslawa Tlomak to a reasonable degree of medical certainty.

5) On October 7, 2011, after receiving the information the baby was not a product of a natural birth. Milwaukee Police Department squads responded to 1627 S. 7th Street where they encountered Annette Morales Rodriguez inside the home. Because Morales-Rodriguez was claiming to be the mother of that baby, police officers caused her to be taken to St. Francis Hospital for medical evaluation. While being evaluated at St. Francis Hospital it was medically determined that Annette Morales-Rodriguez had not recently given birth. While being evaluated in the labor and delivery department at St. Francis Hospital, Annette Morales-Rodriguez went into the bathroom. Present outside the bathroom was Police Officer Latanya Diedrich. Officer Diedrich's report reveals that when Annette Morales-Rodriguez came out of the bathroom she said her vaginal area was bleeding. Officer Diedrich went into the bathroom of the hospital and observed a large amount of blood on the bathroom floor. Annette Morales-Rodriguez was then taken into custody and taken to the emergency room at the hospital where Annette Morales-Rodriguez insisted she did not need medical treatment. Morales-Rodriguez was evaluated by Dr. Rachel English an emergency room physician who determined that Morales-Rodriguez had superficial scratching on her vaginal walls. Annette Morales-Rodriguez then volunteered that she scratched her vaginal area with her finger nails. It was also determined that Annette Morales-Rodriguez had not recently given birth.

6) Annette Morales-Rodriguez was then conveyed to the Police Administration Building. The defendant Annette Morales-Rodriguez was advised of her Miranda Rights on October 7, 2011, at 6:57 p.m. After being advised of her Miranda Rights Annette Morales-Rodriguez gave a statement to Detectives Rodolfo Gomez and James Hutchinson which was believed to be reliable because it was against her penal interest. The defendant Annette Morales-Rodriguez stated:

a) That her boyfriend wanted a son and she could not get pregnant.

b) The defendant told detectives that she had told her boyfriend she was pregnant and it was time to have the baby, and she began to panic because she knew she was not pregnant.

c) That on October 5, 2011, she decided she was going to find a pregnant woman, and drove down S. 13th Street a number of times. She had planned for two weeks to find a pregnant woman and take the baby and make it hers. On that date she did not find a pregnant woman.

d) That on the morning of October 6, 2011, she went out again looking for a pregnant woman. She drove in the area of S. Chase Avenue, because she knew there was an agency nearby that pregnant women frequented. She then saw Maritza Ramirez-Cruz, whom she had never met before, and offered her a ride. She stated before she did this she thought about telling her boyfriend the truth that she was not pregnant, but couldn't do it.

e) As she drove on Chase Avenue she saw Maritza Ramirez-Cruz walking near an agency in the area. The defendant Annette Morales-Rodriguez asked Maritza Ramirez-Cruz if she wanted a ride. Maritza Ramirez-Cruz accepted the ride, and the defendant Annette Morales-Rodriguez waited for Maritza Ramirez-Cruz to come out of the agency. She then drove the victim to Walgreens on Chase Avenue to purchase nausea medicine.

f) The defendant Annette Morales-Rodriguez then drove with Maritza Ramirez-Cruz to her (Annette Morales-Rodriguez) home at 1627 S. 7th Street, using the excuse that she needed to go home and change her shoes.

g) When she and Maritza Ramirez-Cruz arrived at her house at 1627 S. 7th Street Morales-Rodriguez had reservations about what she was about to do.

h) Maritza Ramirez-Cruz went in the house with Annette Morales-Rodriguez to go to the bathroom.

i) When Maritza Ramirez-Cruz came out of the bathroom the defendant hit Maritza Ramirez-Cruz several times in the head with a baseball bat. Maritza fell against the wall and fled into the bathroom. The defendant Annette Morales-Rodriguez followed her into the bathroom and pulled Maritza Ramirez-Cruz out of the bathroom. Maritza ran into the living room and Annette Morales Rodriguez picked up the bat again and hit Maritza a third time in the head. This broke Maritza's glasses and Maritza fell down and struck her head on a table.

j) The defendant Annette Morales Rodriguez then straddled Maritza Ramirez-Cruz, who was on her back. Annette Morales-Rodriguez, using her right hand squeezed Ramirez-Cruz's throat. Ramirez-Cruz fought back and Annette Morales-Rodriguez restrained both of Maritza Ramirez-Cruz's hands by kneeling on them. Annette Morales-Rodriguez, using both of her hands, squeezed Maritza Ramirez-Cruz around the throat until she was no longer conscious.

k) Annette Morales-Rodriguez retrieved duct tape from her room, using it to bind Maritza Ramirez-Cruz's hands and feet, as well as placing pieces of the tape over her mouth and nose. She then placed a plastic bag over Ramirez-Cruz's head, because blood was coming out of her mouth and nose.

l) Annette Morales Rodriguez then dragged Maritza Ramirez-Cruz to the hallway by the bathroom. She then took an Exacto knife and cut Maritza Ramirez-Cruz's abdomen. She cut Maritza at the bikini line attempting to duplicate the process she had seen on the Discovery Channel, depicting a cesarean section birth.

m) Annette Morales Rodriguez stated she cut her fingers while cutting the baby out of Maritza Ramirez-Cruz, and showed the detectives the cuts on her hands.

n) When Annette Morales Rodriguez cut open Maritza the amniotic fluid came out of Maritza's stomach, and when Annette Morales Rodriguez took the baby out of the stomach the baby was not breathing.

o) Annette Morales Rodriguez then cut the placenta out.

p) Annette Morales Rodriguez then dragged Maritza Ramirez-Cruz into the basement and concealed her body by the hot water heater.

q) Annette Morales Rodriguez then changed her bloody clothes and began cleaning the blood in the house.

r) Annette Morales Rodriguez wanted people to believe she was bleeding from the birth so she took some of Maritza Ramirez-Cruz's blood and put it on her own thighs and vagina.

s) She then called 911.

t) She stated she did this because her boyfriend wanted a baby boy and she could not get pregnant. She was concerned her children would think their mother was a killer.

u) The defendant stated she learned while with the pregnant woman her name was Maritza Ramirez-Cruz.

7) Detective Matthew Goldberg along with other detectives went to the basement of 1627 S. 7th Street. In the basement of that residence Detective Goldberg found the body of Maritza Ramirez-Cruz and observed a gapping hole in her abdomen area. Maritza Ramirez-Cruz was deceased.

8) Complainant further alleges that the body of Maritza Ramirez-Cruz was transferred to the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office where an autopsy was done on Maritza Ramirez-Cruz by Dr. Wieslawa Tlomak the deputy medical examiner of Milwaukee County. The autopsy was done on October 8, 2011. The result of that autopsy showed Maritza Ramirez-Cruz had received blunt force trauma to her head consistent with being hit by a baseball bat. She was also duct taped around the legs and hands along with duct tape over the mouth and nose of Maritza Ramirez-Cruz. A plastic bag was secured over the head of Maritza Ramirez-Cruz. There were signs of asphyxiation in the body of Maritza Ramirez-Cruz. There were also signs of manual strangulation to the neck of Maritza Ramirez-Cruz as there were nail marks on her neck and hemorrhage to the neck muscles.

The abdomen of Maritza Ramirez-Cruz was cut open with a horizontal cut across the abdomen. The bowels of Maritza Ramirez-Cruz were exposed, her ovaries were removed, and her uterus had been cut out. Her fallopian tubes had also been cut out.

It was the opinion of Dr. Tlomak to a reasonable degree of medical certainty that Maritza Ramirez-Cruz died of exsanguination, loss of blood. There was 200ml of blood in the abdomen of Maritza Ramirez-Cruz. Secondary causes of death were asphyxiation by manual strangulation. It is also the opinion of Dr. Tlomak that a viable baby had been removed from Maritza Ramirez-Cruz.

9) All of the events occurred in the City and County of Milwaukee.

****End of Complaint****

Subscribed and sworn to before me and approved for filing this ____ day of October, 2011.

Mark S. Williams
Assistant District Attorney
1017937

Complaining Witness