

OFFICE OF THE  
**DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

**JOHN T. SAVRNOCH**  
District Attorney



08-751

RELEASE NUMBER

August 28, 2024

RELEASE DATE

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\*\*\*\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\*\*\*\*

**SANTA BARBARA JURY CONVICTS 21-YEAR OLD WOMAN OF ATTEMPTED MURDER,  
FINDS HER LEGALLY INSANE AT TIME OF CRIME**

**Re: *People v. Cora Vides, Santa Barbara Case No. 21CR00914***

Santa Barbara County District Attorney John T. Savrnoch announced that Cora Vides, a 21-year-old resident of Santa Barbara, California, was found guilty by a jury on August 12, 2024, of Attempted Murder with Premeditation and Deliberation. The Jury also found true allegations that Ms. Vides personally used a deadly weapon, a knife, and did personally inflict great bodily injury on the victim, Ms. Avery.

The charges stemmed from an incident occurring in the early morning of February 14, 2021, between two Laguna Blanca school students. Ms. Vides had invited the victim, Ms. Avery, to her house for a get together on February 13, 2021. When the victim indicated to Ms. Vides that it was time to go, Ms. Vides asked the victim to lie down and try a meditation technique, placed a sweatshirt over her eyes and had her look up exposing her neck. Ms. Vides then told the victim to image a light going through her body, and to think about the future and things she was looking forward to. At that point Ms. Vides counted down from “3” before taking a switchblade knife, that she had received for her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, and plunging it into the victims neck. Although bleeding profusely from her neck wound the victim was able to fight back for some time while Ms. Vides attempted to strangle her and then suffocate her with a comforter. Eventually, the victim was able to convince Ms. Vides that she would forgive her and to get her parents to take her to the hospital. The victim survived the attack after undergoing emergency surgery.

After weeks of expert psychological testimony and clear indications of intrusive violent ideations related to the victim, the jury found in a separate phase of the trial that the defendnat was legally insane at the time of the attack.

Ms. Vides is currently being held without bail and the case is set for continued hearing and placement recommendation on August 29, 2024 in Santa Barbara Superior Court, Department 11 in front of the Honorable Von Deroian at 8:30 a.m. Based on the jury’s finding of insanity at the time of the offense, Ms. Vides will be committed to the Department of State Hospitals for care and treatment of up to a maximum time of life.

District Attorney John Savrnoch stated, “Thank you to the Santa Barbara Police Department and the Prosecution Team led by Senior Deputy Kevin Weichbrod and Deputy District Attorney Sarah Barkley for their work in this difficult case in holding this individual accountable for her actions.”

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