



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF CORONER

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July 30, 2004

TO: EACH SUPERVISOR

FROM: LAKSHMANAN SATHYAVAGISWARAN, M.D.
CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER-CORONER

ANTHONY T. HERNANDEZ
DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: **TRAVEL TO MANAGUA, NICARAGUA TO PROVIDE
EXPERT WITNESS TESTIMONY**

During a domestic dispute on November 26, 2000, Alfonso Lara allegedly murdered Julia Morrales and Jorge Samiento, (Coroner Cases 2000-8290 and 2000-8291). Both victims were buried under their residence. Felony Warrant No. BA210399, for two counts of murder was issued for Mr. Lara's arrest. With the assistance of the Los Angeles Police Department's Detective Support Division, Foreign Prosecution Unit, Mr. Lara was located and arrested in Managua, Nicaragua. Mr. Lara will be tried for the crime in Managua, Nicaragua.

This is to inform you that two LA County Deputy Medical Examiners and one Senior Criminalist will be testifying at the criminal trial in Managua between 8-3-04 and 8-6-04. This was requested by LAPD in order to bring those persons responsible for the deaths to justice. Authorities in Nicaragua refused to grant extradition. LAPD will be responsible for visa arrangements, transportation, lodging, boarding costs, and security arrangements for our staff involved in the trial.

I have discussed this request with County Counsel and it is considered within our scope of duty to provide this support to LAPD as the autopsies, forensic work and homicide investigation on both the victims were conducted at the Department of Coroner.

LS/fvh