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For Immediate Release

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En Español

Gang Member Convicted of Brutally Murdering 14-year-old Girl in 2007

San Diego County District Attorney [Bonnie M. Dumanis](#) announced a first-degree murder conviction today against a defendant charged with killing 14-year-old Ahlyja Pinson in 2007 and leaving her body in a vacant rundown house in Golden Hill.

After one day of deliberation, Antero Cruz, 24, was found guilty of first-degree murder, assault with deadly force causing great bodily injury and hit and run causing injury. He faces 33 years-to-life in prison.

“With today’s conviction, Antero Cruz will be held accountable for this brutal and senseless murder,” DA Dumanis said. “I hope the verdict will bring a small measure of justice to Ahlyja’s family.”

On December 31, 2007, Ahlyja’s body was found beaten and stabbed by a homeless man in the basement of a Golden Hill home.

He will be sentenced on March 23 by Superior Court Judge Robert F. O’Neill.

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