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Prosecutors to seek death penalty in Hossencofft case

By Leslie Hoffman
Tribune reporter

Prosecutors today will file a notice to seek the death penalty against the estranged husband of Girly Hossencofft and his girlfriend, District Attorney Jeff Romero said.

Diazien Hossencofft and Linda Henning are facing murder, kidnapping and other charges in connection with the September disappearance and presumed death of Girly Hossencofft.

Romero said this morning the reasoning behind the decision is two-fold.

"There are two aggravating circumstances -- murder in the course of a kidnapping or attempted kidnapping and murder for hire," he said.

Despite an intensive search to locate the missing woman, authorities still have not been able to find Girly Hossencofft's body.

But according to search warrants unsealed in the case in November, police found large pools of blood in Girly Hossencofft's apartment that had been wiped away. In addition, police found bloody clothes belonging to Girly Hossencofft, a bloody cloth, gauze, and duct tape with blood and hair on U.S. 60 near Socorro.

The search warrants also indicate Hossencofft and Henning tried to recruit a 49-year-old Albuquerque man to kill Girly. That man told a grand jury that Hossencofft instructed him and Henning to get Girly Hossencofft and bring the 36-year-old bank employee to him, according to court documents.

Diazien Hossencofft was arrested Sept. 21 by FBI agents in South Carolina on federal charges of making interstate threats to injure people he believed were being questioned by Albuquerque police.

He will be arraigned on the state charges Friday morning before state District Court Judge Frank Allen Jr.

Henning was arraigned in November after her Oct. 29 arrest on perjury and criminal solicitation charges. She is being held on a $2.5 million cash-only bond in City-County Jail.

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