

**News Release from**  
**The Honorable Sandra Doorley**  
**Monroe County District Attorney**

September 9, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Hanane Mouhib Pled Not Responsible by Reason of Mental Disease or Defect**

Rochester, NY- Wednesday, September 9, 2020, pursuant to CPL 220.15, the People consented to the entry of the plea of 38-year-old Hanane Mouhib was found not responsible by reason of mental disease or defect in the death of 7-year-old Abraham Cardenas.

April 5, 2018, the Monroe County Sheriff's Office was called to the home of Hanane Mouhib in the Town of Sweden for a domestic disturbance. Upon their arrival, they interacted with Ms. Mouhib when they found the decapitated body of Abraham Cardenas. Upon further investigation, it was discovered that Ms. Mouhib had been discharged after "minimal improvement" from a psychiatric inpatient admission less than two weeks prior.

An Independent Psychiatric Examination by Dr. Robert Weisman resulted in the opinion that Mouhib was experiencing ongoing symptoms of mental illness and that she was unable to substantially appreciate the wrongfulness of her conduct. His opinion confirmed that of other psychiatric examiners.

The case was prosecuted by Sara VanStrydonck, Chief of Special Victims Bureau and Amanda Balling, Deputy Chief of the Special Victims Bureau.

"After prosecuting child abuse cases for 13 years, the death of Abraham Cardenas was one of the most horrific cases I have seen due to the nature of the incident and senseless loss of Abraham's life," said Assistant District Attorney Sara VanStrydonck. "I want to especially thank the first responding Sheriff's Deputies and Investigators for their strength and fortitude throughout this lengthy investigation. Because of their efforts, an appropriate and just resolution was reached."

"Abraham's death was heartbreaking for an entire community," said Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley. "While dispositions of this type are rare, today's proceeding was the most appropriate outcome that the criminal justice system could offer. Our deepest thoughts remain with the family of both Abraham Cardenas and Hanane Mouhib."

Hanane Mouhib's next court date is November 9, 2020, in front of State Supreme Court Justice Moran, where it is expected that the Commissioner of Mental Health will provide an opinion as to whether Ms. Mouhib suffers from a dangerous mental disorder. She will continue to be in the care and custody of the State.

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