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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Update on joint investigation of Aliso Viejo explosion

SANTA ANA, Ca. (November 26, 2018) – The joint investigation between the Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCS.D) and the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) continues to determine who is responsible for the May 2018 explosion at an Aliso Viejo day spa that killed one female and injured two others.

At approximately 1:10 p.m. on Tuesday, May 15, Orange County Fire Authority firefighters were dispatched to reports of an explosion at a building at 11 Mareblu in the city of Aliso Viejo. One deceased female, Ildiko Krajnyak, 48, was found during a preliminary search of the building. Investigators believe Krajnyak was killed by an explosion from inside the business, which is a day spa located on the first floor of the building. Two other women inside the day spa at the time suffered significant burns and other injuries.

For more than two weeks following the explosion, bomb technicians and FBI Evidence Response Teams worked around the clock to collect evidence from the scene. More than 1,000 pieces of evidence were collected, and 300 of those pieces of evidence were flown to Quantico, Va. for processing by the FBI. Investigators have also collected and searched terrabytes of digital media and hours of surveillance footage.

"We are looking at every grain of sand," said Joshua Stone, an FBI Assistant Special Agent in Charge. "Combing through the evidence in this case has been described as looking for something microscopic in a giant building that was hit by a tornado. Nevertheless, we are committed to using every tool available to follow the evidence to conclusion."

The processing of the evidence at the FBI lab at Quantico continues, with investigators from both agencies receiving daily updates. The painstaking process of inspecting each piece of evidence at the molecular level has helped determine that the items used to create the explosive device can be purchased at commercial stores. No further information about the explosive device will be provided at this time.

Investigators have followed more than 300 leads in the United States and abroad. Both agencies are asking for anyone in the community to come forward with information. Specifically, they are looking for information from individuals who may have been in the area of the Mareblu business complex the week prior to the explosion.

"This remains an active and open homicide investigation, and we want to bring justice to Ildiko's family," said OCS.D Undersheriff Don Barnes. "Something that may seem innocuous and mundane could be just the information we need. Please reach out if you have information regarding this case."

Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to call the FBI tip line at 1-800-call-FBI. Video of the incident can be uploaded to www.fbi.gov/caexplosion.

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