

Stanislaus County  
**SHERIFF'S  
DEPARTMENT**

Sheriff Adam Christianson  
250 E. Hackett Road, Modesto, CA 95358



**MEDIA RELATIONS**



**NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE 03/01/11  
TIME 2:00 PM**

**California Department of Justice Confirms Positive Identity of Suspected Kidnapper**

**Patterson, CA-** Officials with the California Department of Justice (DOJ) notified Stanislaus County Sheriff's detectives today that the body of suspected kidnapper Jose Rodriguez has been positively identified. Rodriguez's body was recovered from the Delta-Mendota canal on February 12, 2011.

Palm skin taken during the autopsy of Rodriguez on February 16, 2011 was transported to DOJ by detectives who asked DOJ latent fingerprint experts to compare the palm print, using the dermis sample from Rodriguez's left palm, against finger-palm print arrest records on file for Rodriguez. The submitted human skin of the left palm was positively identified as being that of Jose Estaban Rodriguez.

Among all the biometric techniques, fingerprint-based identification is the oldest method which has been successfully used to positively identify suspects involved in criminal activity. A fingerprint is made of a series of ridges and furrows on the surface of the finger. The uniqueness of a fingerprint can be determined by the pattern of ridges and furrows.

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