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Crime Tracker 5

### Teen accused in Del Monte exec's death won't face adult charges

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charges

MESA, Ariz. (AP) -- A teenager accused of helping bury a slain executive's body and concealing evidence won't be tried as an adult, a judge ruled Monday.

Juvenile Court Judge Andrew Klein said he could find nothing to suggest the teen planned or helped carry out the murder of 35-year-old Pedro Corzo.

The teen wept in court during Monday's hearing.

But the 15-year-old suspect will be tried in juvenile court next month on a charge of hindering prosecution.

His trial was scheduled to begin May 3.

Corzo's widow, Shelly Corzo, had asked the judge to try the teenager as an adult. With tears in her eyes, she told the judge her husband should be here to celebrate the birth of their now 7-week-old son.

Corzo, a southwest regional manager for Del Monte Foods from Peoria, was shot to death in western Maricopa County. His body was found hidden in a shallow desert grave on Jan. 11, two days after he was reported missing.

Prosecutors say the 15-year-old was helping his brother and cousin.

Three suspects were arrested by a Montana Highway Patrol officer following a traffic stop five days later.

Montana Highway Patrol officer Toman Baukema said their possible involvement in the Arizona killing surfaced while officers talked to one of the boys later.

The suspects, 22-year-old Justin Harrison and two of his cousins, 15 and 16-year old brothers suspected of being runaways from Missouri, were detained at the time until the Maricopa County Sheriff's office filed extradition papers.

Meanwhile, in Wright City, Missouri, Harrison's neighbors say they had feared him. They say he enjoyed shooting weapons in the family's back yard; that he tried to burn a house and tortured cats.

Two events in the summer of 2000 had made them wary of Harrison -- the attempted

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arson of a home under construction and the shooting and burning of three stray cats.

Prosecutors say Harrison pleaded guilty to property damage and animal abuse.

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