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WIDOW ASKS FOR PUBLIC'S HELP INFORMATION NEEDED TO FIND KILLER OF HER HUSBAND

Brent Whiting, The Arizona Republic

The widow of a slain Del Monte executive made an emotional plea Thursday for public help in bringing her husband's killer to justice.

Shelly **Corzo**, 34, who is pregnant with her second child, wants the murderer to be caught before others are killed. She wants other families to be spared the grief she is suffering. "This is a terrible tragedy for my family," **Corzo** told reporters, her voice breaking with emotion. "It's a terrible tragedy for my children, who will not know their father."

Corzo was accompanied by her parents, her husband's parents and a family clergyman as she spoke to the media outside her north Peoria home.

The body of her husband, **Pedro Corzo**, 35, was found Sunday in a shallow grave in a rugged desert area about 20 miles southwest of 543rd Avenue and Baseline Road. The body was about a half-mile from **Corzo's** blue four-wheel-drive Ford Explorer. **Corzo** worked as general manager of the Southwest region for Del Monte Fresh Produce. He was known to travel the area to visit remote farms.

No motive has been offered in the case, and the cause of death has not been disclosed. Brad Dunn, an investigator for the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, said deputies will travel the area this weekend and hand out fliers, hoping for a break in the case. Shelly **Corzo** said that when her husband failed to return home last Friday, she didn't want to fear the worst, so she had assumed that he was lost. By early Sunday, before the body was found, it was apparent to everyone who knew and loved her husband that he must have been killed, she said.

Corzo, who has a daughter, Veronica, 3, said her husband had prayed for a son and looked forward to the arrival of **Pedro Jr.**, who is expected to arrive in about a month.

A reward fund that is expected to exceed \$1,000 has been set up for information leading to the arrest and conviction of **Pedro Corzo's** killer.

Contact the Sheriff's Office at (602) 256-1087 or Silent Witness at (480) 948-6377. Reach the reporter at brent.whiting@arizonarepublic.com or (602) 444-6937.