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WIDOW WANTS JUVENILE TRIED AS ADULT IN KILLING

Brent Whiting, The Arizona Republic

The widow of **Pedro Corzo**, a slain Del Monte Foods Co. executive, went public Monday with a plea for justice.

Shelly **Corzo**, 34, wants to persuade a judge that a 15-year-old boy, one of three people implicated in her husband's death, should be prosecuted as an adult, not as a juvenile.

Nicholas Aston is charged with hindering prosecution. He is accused of helping two murder suspects, one of them his older brother, bury **Pedro Corzo's** body and conceal evidence.

Sheriff's deputies say that **Corzo**, 35, was shot to death Jan. 9 in western Maricopa County and that his body was hidden in a shallow grave in the desert. If tried and convicted as a juvenile, Aston would go free on his 18th birthday (in July 2006) and not have a permanent criminal record.

If prosecuted as an adult, Aston could receive as much as seven years in prison. Shelly **Corzo**, a Peoria resident, said Monday that she favors that option, not because of the harsher punishment but because it would give Aston a lifelong felony record. "I'm not out to get revenge," **Corzo** said. "I just want people to be able to know whether he has ever been convicted of something terrible like this."

To promote her views, she will meet with the Valley media at 1 p.m. today at Harvestime Assembly of God Church, 8340 W. Northern Ave., Glendale. That's a warm-up for a court hearing at 2:15 p.m. Thursday at which she will argue her point before a juvenile judge in Mesa who is handling the case.

The Maricopa County Attorney's Office wants Aston prosecuted as an adult, but **Corzo** said that a psychologist and probation officer have recommended against it, saying that rehabilitation is possible before his 18th birthday. **Corzo** disagrees, saying, "It took him 15 years to get where he is now. That's not going to be undone in two years."

Justin A. Harrison, 22, of Wright City, Mo., and a cousin, Joshua A. Aston, 16, of St. Peters, Mo., are awaiting trial on charges of first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder. Joshua is being prosecuted as an adult.

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