

Hillsboro murder suspect who disappeared from corrections center indicted on aggravated murder, sexual assault charges

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A **Washington County** grand jury has indicted Eric C. Petersen on aggravated murder and sexual assault charges in the August slaying of his ex-girlfriend.

Petersen, 24, is charged in the stabbing death of Aimie Zdrantan, who was found dead inside her Hillsboro apartment Aug. 29.

Police arrested Petersen on Aug. 30. In an interview with police that day, court records say, he admitted **to attacking** Zdrantan, smashing objects and placing a plastic bag over her head, before sinking a large knife into her neck.

Initially charged with murder, he now faces seven counts of aggravated murder and one count each of first-degree sodomy, first-degree sexual abuse and first-degree burglary, according to court records. Petersen, who remains in the county jail, was arraigned on the indictment Monday.

The body of Petersen's former girlfriend, 24-year-old Zdrantan, **was discovered** when her father came by to check on her. Police say she was likely killed the day before, on Aug. 28, between noon and 4 p.m.



View full size Aimie Zdrantan, 24, poses with her daughter. Police believe Zdrantan was killed in her Hillsboro apartment on Aug. 28. Courtesy of the Zdrantan family

At the time of her death, Zdrantan had a restraining order against Petersen. Records show Petersen had recently violated the restraining order and the terms of his probation, which related to a 2013 unlawful use of a weapon conviction. The victim in that case was Zdrantan's father.

Days before the killing, a judge had revoked Petersen's probation and sentenced him to 60 days in custody, records say. Petersen was serving his sanction at the **Community Corrections Center**, a minimum-security transitional facility, across the street from the county jail in Hillsboro.

Court documents show that Petersen was allowed to leave the center from 9:45 a.m. to noon on Aug. 28 to go to a nearby job search service. Just before he was supposed to return, he called the center and said he had gone to Clackamas Town Center without permission, records say. A warrant was issued for his arrest the next day.

Authorities caught up with him Aug. 30 in La Center, Wash., where he was arrested on a fugitive from justice charge.

Zdrantan was the mother of Petersen's daughter, who was in a bedroom of the apartment when the killing occurred, court records say. Petersen later left the 2-year-old with a neighbor.

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