

FOX NEWS FLASH

Aunt of murdered Texas teen calls for stricter laws as illegal immigrant with criminal past pleads not guilty

"Why was he allowed on a long leash while others with lesser offenses are not given second chances?," Ana Medina asked on "America's Newsroom" Thursday.

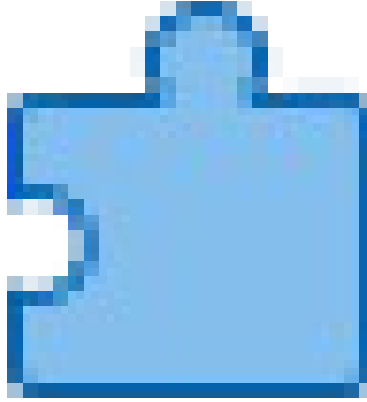
"Criminal histories should be not be given any leniency. Anyone on probation shouldn't be let loose on a loose leash, they should be tight. They should be not given second chances if it's a more habitual felony."

A spokesperson for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) told Fox News Digital that ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) Houston lodged an immigration detainer with the Jackson County (Texas) Sheriff's Office on Romero following his arrest.

"We're focusing on felonies," Ana continued. "I do, however, highlight the need of stricter laws and consequences for those who do tend to have violent tendencies."

Video





Object 3

"It's been very hard for us and family," Ana said. "Every day that just passes by, is harder to bear. But I'm here today standing up for justice for her and beside my sister, like I told her since day one."

Romero [pleaded not guilty](#) at a hearing on Thursday.

"He entered a plea of not guilty. We look forward to his trial to defend his case. He is innocent," said **Romero's defense attorney, Chris Iles**, after the suspect was arraigned in Jackson County Court.

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Fox News' Audrey Conklin contributed to this report.

Rafael Govea Romero is accused of stalking and killing Lizbeth Medina while on probation in December 2023

By Elizabeth Heckman Fox News

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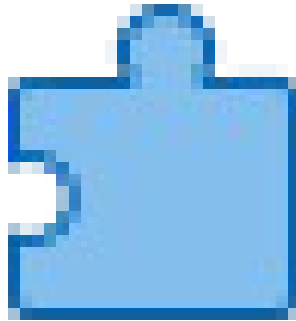
Aunt of girl allegedly killed by illegal immigrant on probation speaks out: 'Laws should be stricter'

Ana Medina, the aunt of 16-year-old murder victim Lizbeth Medina, on the need for stronger laws to prevent more violence and similar tragedies.

The aunt of a Texas teenager allegedly killed by an illegal immigrant with a criminal history is calling for stricter laws to stop offenders from being given a "long leash" with probation.

Rafael Govea Romero, a 24-year-old illegal immigrant from Mexico, is accused of stalking and then stabbing to death 16-year-old Lizbeth Medina in the Edna apartment that she shared with her mother in December 2023.

Romero was reportedly on probation for a burglary in Schulenburg, Texas, about 60 miles from Edna, in 2022. Edna police believe Romero may also be tied to a burglary that occurred at Lizbeth's home about a month before her killing.



Object 2

MOM OF TEXAS TEEN ALLEGEDLY KILLED BY ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT SUSPECT CALLS FOR CHANGE AFTER LAKEN RILEY MURDER

Rafael Govea Romero, an "undocumented male" whom officials believe is "the person responsible for the death of Lizbeth Medina," was arraigned Thursday on capital murder charges at the Jackson County Courthouse. (Edna Police Department/ Edna Police Department)