



María Teresa Macias v. Sonoma County Sheriff Mark Ihde is the most important women's rights case in the country. A victory in federal court will establish once and for all that law enforcement cannot continue to ignore domestic violence laws with impunity.

María Teresa Macias was shot to death by her estranged husband, Avelino, on April 15, 1996. Her mother, Sara, was also shot but survived. Prior to her death, Teresa had called the Sonoma County Sheriff's Department more than 20 times to report Avelino's violence, sexual assaults, stalk ing, and threats to kill both Teresa and her mother.

Despite California law and county policy requiring arrest on domestic violence and domestic violence restraining order violations, the sheriff never arrested or cited Avelino; only two police reports were filed.

With their utter failure to enforce the law, the sheriff left Avelino free to track Teresa down and murder her.

Please join with the Purple Berets in making women's history as we overturn discriminatory legal precedents and establish women's constitutional right to Equal Protection.

Judge Susan Illston has shown in her rulings that she understands clearly the importance of this case. Let's support her courage by showing that women and supporters of civil rights everywhere stand in support of this landmark case.

Please help us pack the courtroom for the three to four weeks of trial. To keep the courtroom filled over time, we're asking that women's and other interested groups chose a day or one day a week to bring your group out in force.

To car pool, please call 869.0902 if you're driving or need a ride to the trial from Sonoma Co. For more information on the case, contact Purple Berets at 707.887.0262 or www.purpleberets.org.

**Trial begins 8:30 a.m., Monday, June 17th
& runs Monday - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. for 2-3 weeks
San Francisco Federal Bldg. 17th Floor, Courtroom #4; 450 Golden Gate at Polk**