

PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT

Date: 12-29-2016

Report: #2016-96166

I, Steve Schmidli, a Detective with the Independence, Missouri Police Department, knowing that false statements on this form are punishable by law, state that the facts contained herein are true.

1. I have probable cause to believe that on 12-29-2016 at about 0846 hours., Lorenzo A. Ruiz-Merlos (Race – H, Sex - M, DOB: 5-30-84, [REDACTED] Address: 411 N. Kendall Dr., Independence MO 64056) Committed one or more criminal offenses in Jackson County, Missouri.

2. The facts supporting this believe are as follows:

That on 12-29-2016 at about 0846 hours, the Defendant, Lorenzo A. Ruiz-Merlos knowingly and repeatedly stabbed his wife, V.S. (dob: 2-14-87) twice in the chest. This offense occurred at 9530 E. Winner Road in Independence, Jackson County Missouri. The victim's injuries were serious but non-life threatening.

V.S. called 911 from the apartment complex at 9530 E. Winner Road and reported that her husband had stabbed her. Independence Police were dispatched to the scene and located the victim and the suspect in the area. The victim was observed with serious injuries and was transported by ambulance to North Kansas City Hospital for treatment. The suspect was taken into custody after a brief stand-off with police and apparently attempted to take his life by stabbing and cutting himself. The Defendant was transported by ambulance to Centerpoint Medical Center with serious self-inflicted injuries.

Det. Steve Schmidli responded to North Kansas City Hospital and contacted the victim, V.S. She identified the person that stabbed her as her estranged husband and father of their 4 year old son, [REDACTED]. The victim stated that she has been separated from the Defendant for the past year. She advised that on 12-28-2016, they met with an attorney to start the divorce process. The victim also disclosed to the Defendant that she has been dating another male individual during their separation. The victim advised that on today's date, the Defendant wanted to see their 4 year old son, at which time, she drove to his apartment complex with the intent to have her son stay with the Defendant while she went to work.

The victim stated that the Defendant contacted her in the apartment complex parking lot and sat in the front passenger seat of her car. She noted that she was seated in the front driver's seat with their child in the back seat of the car. The Defendant gave the victim his checkbook and told her to write herself out a check for \$5000 in reference to some damages that he caused to her property during a domestic violence incident earlier in the year. The victim stated that as she was writing on the check, the Defendant then questioned her on whether or not she had been having "sex" with the male subject she was dating. The victim stated that without warning, the Defendant attempted to stab her in the neck with a kitchen knife. She stated that the Defendant then started stabbing her in the chest, at which time, she fled the car and immediately called 911 for help. The victim wanted to prosecute the Defendant for the assault. Det. Schmidli observed the victim with a puncture wound on the right side of her neck, two stab wounds on her left breast and defensive cut wounds to several of her fingers on her left hand. The victim was listed as in serious but stable condition at the hospital and was expected to survive her injuries.

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Det. Christopher Burris responded to Centerpoint Medical Center to check on the health status of the Defendant. The Defendant was unconscious and sedated condition. Det. Burris was informed that the Defendant had a large laceration to his throat and two stab wounds to his chest. Det. Burris was also informed that the Defendant was found in possession of a note that was written in Spanish and some English. An AMR paramedic that was fluent in Spanish deciphered the note and claimed that the writer wanted Donald Trump and his wife to burn and asked his mother for forgiveness. The Defendant was listed as in critical but stable condition and was expected to survive his injuries.

Det. Steve Schmidli #842

Print Name



Signature

THE COURT FINDS PROBABLE CAUSE

DEC 29 2016

Date

Judge



**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT  
OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI  
AT INDEPENDENCE**

Police# 16-096166  
Prosecutor# 095436908  
1616-CR05245 JB  
OCN#

JACKSON COUNTY MISSOURI

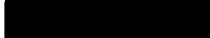
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**COMPLAINT**

**STATE OF MISSOURI**

vs.

**Lorenzo Ruiz-Merlos  
411 N Kendall Dr  
Independence, MO 64056  
DOB: 05/30/1984; Race/Sex: H/M;**



**Defendant.**

**Count I. Domestic Assault 1st Degree - 1st Offense (565.072-002Y19991302.0)**

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Jackson, State of Missouri, upon information and belief, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 565.072, RSMo, committed the class B felony of domestic assault in the first degree, punishable upon conviction under Section 558.011, RSMo, in that on or about December 29, 2016, in the County of Jackson, State of Missouri, the defendant stabbed V.S., and such conduct was a substantial step toward the commission of the crime of attempting to cause serious physical injury to V.S., and was done for the purpose of committing such assault, and V.S. and the defendant were family or household members in that V.S. was the spouse of the defendant.

The range of punishment for a class B felony is imprisonment in the custody of the Missouri Department of Corrections for a term of years not less than five (5) years and not to exceed fifteen (15) years.

**Count II. Armed Criminal Action (571.015-001Y19755299.0)**

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Jackson, State of Missouri, upon information and belief, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 571.015, RSMo, committed the felony of armed criminal action, punishable upon conviction under Section 571.015.1, RSMo, in that on or about December 29, 2016, in the county of Jackson, State of Missouri, the defendant committed the felony of domestic assault in the first degree charged in Count I, all allegations of which are incorporated herein by reference, and the defendant committed the foregoing felony of domestic assault in the first degree by, with and through, the knowing use, assistance and aid of a dangerous instrument.

The range of punishment for the offense of Armed Criminal Action in violation of section 571.015 RSMo. is imprisonment in the custody of the Missouri Department of Corrections for a term of years not less than three (3) years without eligibility for parole, probation, conditional release or suspended imposition or execution of sentence for a period of three (3) calendar years. Any punishment imposed pursuant to section 571.015 RSMo. shall be in addition to any punishment provided by law for the crime committed by, with, or through the use, assistance, or aid of a dangerous instrument or deadly weapon.

The facts that form the basis for this information and belief are contained in the attached statement(s) of facts, made a part hereof and submitted as a basis upon which this court may find the existence of probable cause.

Wherefore, the Prosecuting Attorney prays that an arrest warrant be issued as provided by law.

**THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

vs.

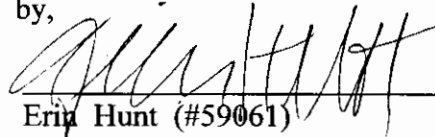
**Lorenzo Ruiz-Merlos**

**JEAN PETERS BAKER**

Prosecuting Attorney

Jackson County, Missouri

by,



Eria Hunt (#59061)

Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

321 W. Lexington

Independence, Missouri 64050

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WITNESSES:

PO Evan Bateman , 223 N. Memorial Drive, Independence, MO 64050

DET Christopher Burris , 223 N. Memorial Drive, Independence, MO 64050

DET Steven Schmidli , 223 N. Memorial Drive, Independence, MO 64050

