



STATEMENT FROM OJRC IN RESPONSE TO JURY DECISION  
IN A.J. SCOTT NELSON TRIAL

May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016

“The decision by a Lane County jury not to sentence A.J. Scott Nelson to death for the murder of Celestino Gutierrez is a just sentence in light of the evidence and a sensible one due to the strong national and local trend away from the death penalty. Oregon has only used its death penalty twice in more than fifty years. Any new death sentence in Oregon would only bring with it massive additional costs to the state and years of appeals that proceed despite the moratorium. Nationally, just two percent of counties are responsible for more than half the people currently on death row. Nelson’s life without parole sentence provides a resolution that will prevent significant additional cost being borne over future decades by Oregon taxpayers.”

*Statement to be attributed to Bobbin Singh, Executive Director, Oregon Justice Resource Center*

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