



# PRESSRELEASE

The Glendon Association ■ 5383 Hollister Ave., Suite 270 ■ Santa Barbara, CA 93111

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Tragedy Strikes in Orange County, International Organization Answers Questions about Murder-Suicide**

This past Saturday police responded to a 911 call from 14 year old Ian Mercado reporting his step-father shot him and his brother. When police arrived they found the bodies of Mercado's step-father, stepmother and three siblings ages 5, 8 and 9. The police indicated that it appeared to be a murder-suicide and are currently investigating the motifs of the shooter.

Dr. Lisa Firestone, Clinical Psychologist and Director of Research and Education for The Glendon Association states, "This is a devastating tragedy, my thoughts and wishes go out to the family. We still know very little information about what led to this tragedy. As new information comes to light we will more than likely discover signs and symptoms of a family in crisis. Of course no new knowledge about this situation can change what has already occurred, however understanding the precipitating factors may help us to prevent a tragedy such as this from occurring in the future. By better understanding individuals and families in crisis we have the possibility of preventing suicide and violence in the future".

"When someone is in crisis they have difficulty seeing solutions, a way through their problems. This combined with access to a weapon clearly creates a lethal situation. Terrible tragedies like this remind us of how vulnerable we are. As a society we need to invest ourselves into becoming involved by learning how to identify signs and symptoms of individuals & families in crisis and what to do," states Dr. Jamie Rotnofsky, Consultant to The Glendon Association.

Dr. Firestone is an expert in suicide and violence prevention and has developed suicide & violence assessment instruments, including the Firestone Assessment of Suicidal Intent (FASI) and the Firestone Assessment of Self Destructive Thoughts (FAST); she is in the process of publishing the Firestone Assessment of Violent Thoughts (FAVT).

The Glendon Association has served the Santa Barbara Community for 25 years, helping people create more meaningful lives through research, education and outreach. For more information, please go to [www.glendon.org](http://www.glendon.org). For direct services, call 2-1-1.

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