

For Immediate Release July 25, 2018

**THIRD DISTRICT FLORIDA APPEALS COURT REVERSES RULING ON MOTION
FILED BY MIAMI DADE COUNTY***Motion To Suppress filed by Miami Dade Regarding Violation of Audio Recording Laws Reversed*

MIAMI, FLA, July 25, 2018 - After more than two years, The Animal Recovery Mission (ARM) received a final ruling on a 2014 Miami Dade case where video and audio showed animals being slaughtered at the hands of Yonisley Garcia at his illegal slaughter farm. The investigation into Operation Noche Buena began in 2013. After the arrest of Yonisley Garcia, the Defense team argued that video and audio were obtained illegally showing the defendant slaughtering and drowning pigs alive in cauldrons of boiling water. The Defense argued that the events occurred on private property, ARM representatives lied about their identities and that ARM did not disclose they were carrying recording devices.

Today, the Third District Court of Appeal in Miami has reversed the ruling made by Judge Murphy in the State vs. Yonisley Garcia case. The audio and video obtained by ARM Investigators will be allowed in trial and used as evidence. "Following this ruling, ARM will enhance our statewide investigations into illegal slaughterhouse operations" stated Richard Couto.

ARM recently received threats of arrest and prosecution by Amira Fox's Office in Lee County Florida. Her Office has stated that it was illegal to obtain and submit surreptitious recordings and have threatened to arrest Richard Couto and other ARM Operatives. They declined to prosecute due to ARM's recordings. Richard Couto further stated, "We are hopeful that Amira Fox's Office in Lee County Florida will use this case law to stop the torturing of innocent animals and prosecute the criminals involved". Currently, investigated illegal slaughterhouses are still up and running in Lee County Florida despite Amira Fox's claims of being shut down. Video of ARM's Lee County Investigation can be seen at <https://www.animalrecoverymission.org/operations/illegal-slaughter-farms/operation-lee-county/>

Video investigation of Operation Noche Buena is available at <https://www.animalrecoverymission.org/operations/illegal-slaughter-farms/operation-noche-buena/>. Link to Appeal Court ruling <https://bit.ly/2uQCifP>

The Animal Recovery Mission is a Non-Profit animal cruelty investigative organization based in Miami Beach, Florida. The Animal Recovery Mission is dedicated to eliminating extreme animal cruelty operations world wide.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

For further comments and interviews contact original assigned former Miami Dade Prosecutor Jason Pizzo at 305-505-8478. Founder and lead investigator of ARM, Richard "Kudo" Couto, can also be contacted at 305-494-2225 or emailed kudo@arminvestigations.org. More information about ARM also is available at animalrecoverymission.org.

URL: www.animalrecoverymission.org