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**CONFERENCE TO TEACH TEENS HOW TO AVOID GETTING
INTO ABUSIVE RELATONSHIPS**

Dating violence is rapidly becoming one of the most worrisome problems affecting teenagers. According to the Federal Bureau of Justice, in 1995 seven percent of all murder victims were young women who were killed by their boyfriends. Even more, women ages 16 to 24 experience the highest per capita rates of intimate violence--nearly 20 per 1000 women.

As part of the continuing efforts to reduce the incidence of dating and family violence in our community, the El Paso County Attorney's Office is organizing the Sixth Annual Domestic Violence Awareness Conference for Teenage Boys and Girls "*Stop Dating Violence*", on Valentine's Day Wednesday, February 14, 2007.

The conference will focus on empowerment through self-esteem awareness and the link between low self-esteem and dating violence victimization. This is the first time the County Attorney's Office is organizing a "combined" conference for boys and girls, to encourage communication and learning from one another. In past years, separate conferences were held for boys and girls.

The keynote address will be given by Jerry Tello, Director of the National Latino Fatherhood and Family Institute. The conference is free and hundreds of high school students are expected to attend.

"Violent behavior is so customary in television shows, movies and music especially catered to young audiences, that many teenagers suffer domestic violence without even knowing something is wrong," said El Paso County Attorney José R. Rodriguez. "Education is the most effective tool to stop this violent cycle that invariably leads to more criminality and bigger social problems," Rodriguez finalized.

WHO: El Paso County Attorney's Office - Family Violence Unit

WHAT: Teen Dating Violence Conference

WHEN: Wednesday February 14, 2007 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m.

WHERE: Ysleta ISD Administration Building Auditorium

9600 Sims (Near McRae)

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El Paso County Attorney José R. Rodríguez will be available for interviews following his opening remarks at 9:00 a.m. in the lobby of the YISD auditorium.