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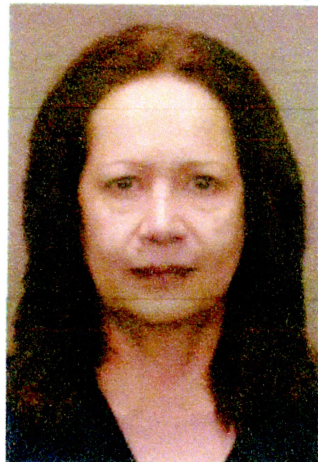
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Death Penalty Is Ruled Out in Killing of Hotel Heir

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
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WHITE PLAINS (AP) — A Florida woman accused of arranging the killings of her husband and mother-in-law will not face the death penalty, a federal prosecutor announced Wednesday.

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Broward Sheriff's Office

Nancy Novack, who is accused of arranging the killings of her husband and mother-in-law.

The prosecutor, Elliott B. Jacobson, said in court that the Justice Department had directed him not to seek the execution of the woman, Nancy Novack, 54, of Fort Lauderdale, or her brother, Cristobal Veliz, 57, of Brooklyn, who is also implicated in the case.

They are accused of hiring people who killed Ms. Novack's mother-in-law, Bernice Novack, in her Florida home and Ms. Novack's husband, Ben, in his hotel room in New York. Mr. Novack's father built the Fontainebleau hotel in Miami Beach. He and his mother were beaten to death in 2009 in what the government says was Nancy Novack's attempt to acquire the family's multimillion-dollar estate.

Ms. Novack and Mr. Veliz have pleaded not guilty.

Mr. Jacobson did not say why the Justice Department had decided against capital punishment. He said he still planned to upgrade the charges next month to include murder in aid of racketeering. When the death penalty is not at issue, that charge carries a mandatory life sentence.

Ms. Novack's lawyer, Howard Tanner, would not comment on his client's reaction. He also would not say whether the maneuver could spur plea negotiations. He said that Ms. Novack was innocent and that he was looking forward to defending her.

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