

Accused crash killer a no-show in court

**(KMZA)--A Nebraska woman, charged in connection with a head-on crash that claimed three lives in Jackson County last year, was a no-show for court on Thursday.**

**Jackson County Sheriff Tim Morse confirmed Thursday afternoon that 49-year-old Maria Perez-Marquez failed to report to Jackson County District Court for a planned preliminary hearing.**

**Her current whereabouts are not known.**

**Those killed in the November 25, 2017 crash were all members of a Sabetha family.**

**Perez-Marquez was arrested in Omaha, Nebraska in August on a Jackson County warrant charging her with three felony counts of involuntary manslaughter, two felony counts of aggravated battery, and a misdemeanor count of reckless driving.**

**She was booked into the Jackson County Jail, but later released on a \$10,000 bond.**

**According to the Kansas Highway Patrol, Perez-Marquez was driving a southbound sport utility vehicle on U.S. 75 when she attempted to pass another vehicle, which led to the fatal crash.**

**42-year-old Carmen Ukele, her 11-year-old daughter, Marlee, and her 62-year-old brother-in-law, Stephen, were returning home from Hutchinson after watching the Sabetha High School football team capture the state 3A championship.**

**Carmen's husband, Lee, was seriously injured in the crash. According to a family friend, he continues to be hospitalized at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, in Omaha.**

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