



Fresno County Sheriff's Department

Richard Pierce, Sheriff **October 1, 2003**
News Release

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Homicide
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Kidnapping Investigation

Fresno County Sheriff's Detectives and the FBI announced, this afternoon, the arrest of two subjects related to a kidnapping investigation that began last Sunday, September 28, 2003.

According to a witness, the 61 year-old victim was kidnapped sometime around noon, while engaged in a sale of a used vehicle at the Selma Swap Meet, in the area of Mountain View and Hwy 99. The victim apparently accompanied two "customers" on a test-drive of a 1998 Chevy Astro van. Law enforcement was contacted after the witness became concerned when the victim failed to return.

Subsequent phone calls over a two-day period suggested that the victim was being held against his will for ransom. With instrumental assists from both the FBI and surveillance units with the Fresno County Sheriff's Department, detectives arrested one individual following a failed ransom exchange; detectives then served several search warrants in the Fresno area in an attempt to locate the victim and / or additional suspects. Carlos SANCHEZ (43 yrs) was booked into the Fresno County Jail on charges of Kidnapping for Ransom and Conspiracy, the bail for which stands at one million dollars.

During the morning hours of Wednesday, the victim was located on Olive Avenue, in the vicinity of Roeding Park following a flurry of phone calls between one of the kidnapers and law enforcement officers. It was ultimately agreed upon that the victim, who had potential health issues, would be released.

Once the victim was located and removed from the area, the outstanding kidnapper was taken into custody with the assistance of the Bakersfield Police Department and FBI agents. Filiberto SANCHEZ (40 yrs), who was stopped while driving in the Bakersfield area, was arrested without incident and will be charged with Kidnapping for Ransom, Conspiracy and False Imprisonment.

The Chevy Astro Van was found, by the Fresno Police Department, abandoned in the area of Cedar Avenue and Golden State Boulevard.

Anyone who may have any additional information regarding this investigation is encouraged to contact the Fresno Sheriff's Department at (559) 488-1650 or Detective John Ciaccio, at (559) 488-3730.