



Fresno County Sheriff's Office
Margaret Mims, Sheriff **January 8, 2008**
News Release

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**MEDIA ADVISORY: One Arrested, Two Being Sought In
2007 Halloween Murder**

Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims today announced the arrest of a 17 year old juvenile, and is asking for the public's help in locating two other men wanted in connection with the Halloween shooting death of Elvira Barajas of Reedley.

Wanted are 20 year old Ata Bassam Barakat and 18 year old Joshua Davila. All three suspects are from Dinuba.

The murder occurred on October 31st at approximately 10:25 pm at the Barajas family residence located at 9914 S. Alta Ave. just outside the city of Reedley.

Mrs. Barajas had been in the living room talking on the phone, when someone fired a gun through the front door of the home. Mrs. Barajas was struck and mortally wounded.

Witnesses at the scene reported seeing a tan colored 2004-06 Chevy or GMC full size pick up truck, lowered with stock wheels, flee southbound on Alta Ave. towards the city of Dinuba.

The investigation quickly revealed that the incident was likely gang related as one of Mrs. Barajas' family members may have had gang ties. Mrs. Barajas, a wife and mother of three, appeared to have been an innocent victim of the shooting.

A short time after the murder, the investigation started to focus on the three suspects. As a result, arrest warrants for murder were issued for Barakat, Davila, and the 17 year old juvenile.

The juvenile, currently in custody in Tulare County, was arrested today on the warrant after he appeared in court on a probation violation. His bail has been set at one million dollars.

Barakat is described as middle eastern male, 6-2/175 with short brown hair, brown eyes, and possibly a mustache. He may currently be hiding in the Sacramento area.

Davilla is described as a hispanic male, 5-9/240 with black hair, (shaved), and brown eyes. He has a tattoo of "Teresa" on his upper right arm. He may be currently hiding in the Visalia area.

Both subject are self proclaimed gang members and should be considered armed and dangerous.

Anyone with information on this case or the whereabouts of Bakarat and/or Davila, are asked to contact Detective Mark Eaton at 488-3922, the Fresno County Sheriff's Office at 488-3111, or CrimeStoppers at 498-STOP(7867).

*****Photographs on Barakat and Davilla attached*****

PIO is available for media interviews this afternoon