



Fresno County Sheriff's Office

Margaret Mims, Sheriff **January 11, 2008**
News Release

Deputy Christian Curtice – Public Information Officer
E-Mail: Christian.curtice@fresnosheriff.org
Office 559.488.2699 Fax 559.262.4032

MEDIA ADVISORY: Murder Suspect Arrested. One Suspect Still Sought

Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims tonight announced the arrest of 18 year old Joshua Davila of Dinuba in connection with the October 31st murder of Elvira Barajas.

Earlier this morning at approximately 8:35 am, Davila was arrested by probation officers during a search of a residence located in the 49000 block of Road 124 in Orosi. Davila was discovered hiding in a closet.

On the night of the murder, Mrs. Barajas had been in the living room of her residence located in at 9914 S. Alta Ave, just outside of the city of Reedley, when someone fired a bullet through the front door. Mrs. Barajas was struck and killed.

The investigation revealed that the shooting was possibly gang related and that Mrs. Barajas was an innocent victim.

A short time after the murder, the investigation started to focus on Davila and two other subjects, 20 year old Ata Bassam Bakarar and a 17 year old juvenile, both from Dinuba. Murder arrest warrants were issued for all three.

The juvenile was taken into custody this past Tuesday when he appeared in Tulare court on a probation violation.

Bakarar is still on the loose. He is described as a middle eastern male, 6-2/175 with short brown hair, brown eyes, and possibly a mustache. He is a self proclaimed gang member and should be considered armed and dangerous.

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