



Fresno County Sheriff's Office
Margaret Mims, Sheriff **February 26, 2008**
News Release

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MEDIA ADVISORY: Homicide- Mendota

Fresno County Sheriff's homicide investigators are currently at the scene of a murder that occurred earlier today in the city of Mendota.

At approximately 3:40 pm, deputies responded to an apartment located in the 200 block of Arnaudon Ave. regarding a 911 call.

Upon arrival, deputies located an adult female lying on the floor inside the apartment. The female was deceased and it was apparent that she had died in a violent manner. Homicide investigators were immediately called out to handle the investigation.

The initial investigation has revealed that the victim's death was possibly the result of a domestic violence incident.

The victim's husband, 39 year old Rafael Rivera, is wanted for questioning regarding the murder. Rivera, who also goes by the last name of Villareal, is described as Hispanic, 5-7/215 pounds with short black hair and brown eyes.

He was last seen leaving the residence this morning at approximately 11:00 am, in a white colored, 4 door truck or SUV. All attempts by investigators to contact him have been unsuccessful.

Anyone with information on this case, or Rivera's whereabouts, are asked to contact Detective Sergio Toscano at 488-3922, the Fresno County Sheriff's Office at 488-3111, or CrimeStoppers at 498-STOP(7867).

*****Photo of Rivera attached*****