



**Fresno County Sheriff's Office**  
**Margaret Mims, Sheriff** **April 13, 2008**  
**News Release**

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**MEDIA ADVISORY: Search For Killer Ends In Arrest**

A 28 hour manhunt ended yesterday with the arrest of 29 year old murder suspect, Kenneth Wilson. Wilson was arrested in a remote mountainous area just north of Auberry.

Wilson was wanted in connection with the February 19<sup>th</sup> murder of 34 year old Fresno resident, Julio “Julian” Barajas.

Last month, the Sheriff's Office designated a team of deputies to work specifically on locating Wilson. Several sightings of Wilson were reported in the Auberry and Northfork area, and information was developed that Wilson, his girlfriend Irene Alaniz and their 18 month old son were still together in the area.

This past Friday evening shortly after 10:00 pm, deputies requested that Eagle One, the department's helicopter, check an area north of the Big Sandy Rancheria between Jose Basin Rd and Sugarloaf Rd. With the use of night vision, within 30 minutes Eagle One spotted a lone subject in the remote area.

Believing that the subject was possibly Wilson, additional deputies were dispatched, a perimeter was set up, and the department's SWAT team was requested. A command post was set up at the Sheriff's substation in Auberry.

While waiting for the SWAT team to deploy, Eagle One kept the subject in sight and observed him to be moving slowly through the terrain. Eagle One was also able to confirm that the subject had a flashlight and was armed with a rifle.

Members of the SWAT team deployed and started searching for the subject with the assistance of Eagle One.

**The terrain searched ranged in elevation from 2600 to 3800 feet. It was extremely rocky and covered in thick Manzanita bushes.**

**On Saturday morning, shortly before 8:30 am, Eagle One directed SWAT deputies to a nearby campsite where they located Irene Alaniz and her infant son, clad only in diapers. Both were transported to the Auberry substation where they were checked out by Emergency Medical Services personnel. Alaniz was subsequently arrested on charges of felony child endangerment and booked into the Fresno County Jail. The infant was turned over to Child Protective Services.**

**A second campsite was also located where the murder victim's vehicle was discovered hidden in Manzanita bushes. Homicide detectives and crime scene technicians responded and started processing the scenes.**

**The activity in the area seemed to stimulate Wilson. He fired off several gunshots and then started yelling at deputies to come and get him.**

**Negotiators then made voice contact with Wilson. During the next several hours, Eagle one was able to direct SWAT deputies to Wilson's location where he was taken into custody at approximately 11:30 pm without further incident. Wilson was later booked into the Fresno County Jail on charges of murder and carjacking.**

**Also during the search, Eagle One discovered two marijuana grows in the search area. Sheriff's narcotics officers responded and found a total of over 8000 marijuana plants. SWAT members did take one subject into custody at one of the grow sites. The subject's identity is not being released at this time. It is unknown if Wilson was involved with the marijuana grows.**

**During the operation, as many as 50 law enforcement personnel were on scene. The Sheriff's Office was assisted by personnel from Clovis PD, the US Forest Service, US Park Service, and CalFire.**

**Since the date of the murder, the Sheriff's Office also received assistance from the US Marshal's Service in the search for Wilson, as he was also a wanted parolee.**

**The investigation continues today. Members from the Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team are now at the scene searching the remote area for more possible**

**evidence in the case. Sheriff's narcotics officers are also on scene eradicating the marijuana grow sites.**