



Fresno County Sheriff – Coroner's Office

Margaret Mims, Sheriff-Coroner

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News Release

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Detectives Arrest Man for Using His Car to Commit Murder

Homicide detectives with the Fresno County Sheriff's Office have arrested 31 year old Saul Sepulveda Mendoza of Selma. He has been booked into the Fresno County Jail and faces a charge of murder.

Shortly after midnight on Monday, officers with the California Highway Patrol were dispatched to Nebraska and De Wolf Ave. in Selma regarding an injury traffic accident. Once officers arrived and interviewed witnesses, they determined a driver deliberately struck the victim and then drove away. The victim a 38 year old Hanford man, died at the scene. CHP officers then requested that Fresno County Sheriff's Office homicide detectives take over the investigation.

The preliminary investigation shows that the victim had a woman riding as a passenger in his vehicle when he pulled over and parked on the side of the road. As he got out to walk around his vehicle, Mendoza drove by and intentionally hit the victim with his car. Mendoza had a prior dating relationship with the woman in the victim's vehicle, so detectives believe this was a possible motive for the attack.

Detectives worked throughout the night attempting to locate Mendoza. Just before 8:30 am, FSO detectives along with Kings County Sheriff's deputies, found Mendoza sitting in his car near the intersection of Highway 41 and Main St. in Stratford. Deputies took Mendoza into custody without incident. Detectives believe the car Mendoza was in is the same car used to kill the victim, so it has been collected as evidence.

The Fresno County Coroner's Office is scheduling an autopsy of the victim. His name is being withheld pending notification of family members.

This marks the 11th homicide of 2016 in Fresno County.

Anyone with additional information on this case should call Fresno County Sheriff's Detective Matt Hamilton at 559-600-8210, Detective Adam Maldonado at (559) 600-8208 or Crime Stoppers at (559) 498-STOP (7867). You will remain anonymous and may be eligible for a cash reward.

Case # 16-11491