



Fresno County Sheriff - Coroner's Office

Margaret Mims, Sheriff - Coroner

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News Release

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Three Mendota Men to Face Murder Charges

The three Mendota men Fresno County Sheriff's homicide detectives arrested last week have been identified as 27 year old Ruben Escobar, 22 year old Carlos Cruz and 18 year old Darwin Gomez. On Tuesday, the Fresno County District Attorney's Office filed murder charges on each of the suspects.

Around 10:00 pm on December 1st, Mendota Police officers responded to a call of shots fired on Stamoules Street. Officers discovered a woman, later identified as Marty Sepe, lying on the sidewalk in front of a home located on the 500 block of Stamoules Street. The 46 year old Mendota woman had suffered gunshot wounds and died shortly after medical personnel arrived on scene. After determining this to be a homicide case, Mendota Police requested that the Fresno County Sheriff's Office take over the investigation. The preliminary findings show she lived in the area and had just arrived to the neighborhood prior to being shot.

Shortly after the shooting, Mendota Police officers conducted a traffic stop on a car which was leaving the area and they detained the people inside. Detectives interviewed those occupants, Escobar, Cruz and Gomez. It was determined they were responsible for Sepe's death. A motive for this crime has not been determined and this remains an ongoing investigation.

This killing marks the fourth homicide in the city of Mendota for 2016; three of which have been women.

Anyone with additional information on this case is asked to please call Fresno County Sheriff's Detective Adam Maldonado at (559) 600-8208 or Crime Stoppers at (559) 498-STOP (7867). All tips will remain anonymous and you may be eligible for a cash reward.