

Stanislaus County, California
Sheriff's Department
Sheriff Adam Christianson

April 4, 2007 (Wednesday)
1:30 PM For immediate release
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Two Men Arrested and One Man Rescued After Being Held by Kidnappers

MODESTO, CA- Sheriff's Detectives arrested two men late Tuesday in a kidnapping for ransom case where the victim was held for 3 days. The incident started Sunday April 1, 2007 when the suspects Mark Anthony GONZALES of Empire and Saul Mercedes MUNOZ of Modesto found the 30-year male victim walking on Chicago Ave in Modesto and asked him about some money they were owed. When the victim didn't have the money GONZALEZ and MUNOZ were looking for, they told the victim to get into their car and left the area.

Tuesday morning the victim's wife received a phone call from an unknown person where she was told to get an undisclosed amount of money because her husband had been kidnapped. The victim was also able to talk to his wife and told her that he was being mistreated and try to get the money. The wife then called the Sheriff's department to report the incident.

During the investigation detectives found information leading them to a house in the 100 block of Church St in Empire. At that house detectives detained GONZALES. GONZALES told detectives that the victim was not at his home, but was being held at a home in Ceres. Detectives then went to a house in the 1700 block of Richard Way in Ceres. As detectives approached the front door, they noticed the victim inside the house with MUNOZ. The victim was rescued from inside the house and MUNOZ was arrested.

Both suspects are being held at the Stanislaus County Jail. GONZALES is being charge with kidnapping for ransom, possession of a weapon, and several warrants. His bail is one million dollars. MUNOZ is being held on a no bail parole violation warrant.

Anyone with information about this case is encouraged to contact Detective Frank Navarro at (209) 525-7086. Callers can also leave an anonymous tip by calling Crime Stoppers at (209) 521-4636 and be eligible for a cash reward.

For information regarding this press release please contact Deputy Royjindar Singh (209) 652-6597.

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