



VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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*****NEWS RELEASE*****

February 16, 2016

VPD Report Number: 89-04040

Date/Time Occurred: April 8, 1989 0330 hours

Type of Incident: Homicide arrest

Location: Murray and Willis

Suspect:

1. Elio Dominguez Benavente

Age:

46

Arrested:

Yes

Details: On the listed date and time, the Visalia Police Department responded to a report of a stabbing near Murray and Willis. Officer located victim Steven Guerra at this location deceased from stab wounds. Officers learned the suspect vehicle fled the area. Later that morning, the suspect vehicle was located in the 400 block of Strawberry Street. Jason Alvarez was located in this vehicle deceased also suffering from stab wounds from the altercation at Murray and Willis.

Detectives interviewed suspect Benavente shortly after the crimes. He was released at that time due to a lack of probable cause to arrest. Additional information was developed during the investigation which linked suspect Benavente to these crimes. The Tulare County District Attorney's Office issued an arrest warrant for Benavente's charging him with (2) counts of murder.

For the past 26 years, Benavente has avoided capture despite numerous attempts to locate him including a 2003 profile of this case on America's Most Wanted.

Recently, the Visalia Police Department received information suspect Benavente was possibly in Mexico. The department worked with several agencies including the FBI, US Marshal's Office, and Mexican authorities. Suspect Benavente was arrested last week in Mexico and turned over to US authorities in El Paso, Texas. On February 15, 2016, Visalia Police Department detectives travelled to El Paso and took custody of Benavente. He was transported back to Visalia and booked into the Tulare County Jail.

Arresting / Investigating Officer: VPD Violent Crimes Unit

Supervisor: Sgt. D. Maurice

