THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego Police Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ARRESTS MADE IN 2002 DOUBLE MURDER IN FAIRMOUNT PARK

(San Diego) San Diego Police Department Homicide Unit detectives have arrested two suspects for the January, 2002 murders of Maroun Khalife and Jerry Rico and the attempt murder of Khalife's pregnant girlfriend.

On January 23, 2002, at 8:45 p.m., 17-year-old Khalife and his 17-year-old girlfriend parked their vehicle in the 1900 block of Midvale Drive (in the Fairmount Park neighborhood) to visit Rico. As Rico stood in the street outside Khalife's parked vehicle, a silver sports utility vehicle stopped and blocked Khalife's vehicle from leaving. A suspect exited the SUV, spoke briefly to Rico, and shot him to death. The suspect then fired multiple rounds into Khalife's vehicle, killing him and hitting his girlfriend and her unborn baby. The baby's premature birth was induced that night, and although he survived, he suffers from serious medical problems attributed to the trauma of his birth.

Detectives have worked on the case since 2002, and they identified a 23-year-old male (who was 16 when the murders were committed) and a 21-year-old male (who was 15 when the murders were committed) as suspects. This morning, detectives obtained arrest warrants charging the suspects with two counts of murder and one count of attempt murder.

At 9:15 a.m. hours, the 23-year-old suspect was arrested in the 1400 block of Johnson Avenue in El Cajon. The 21-year-old suspect is currently incarcerated in a California state prison for an unrelated conviction. Because the suspects were juveniles at the time of the murders, their names will not be released at this time.

The incident is believed to be gang-related, and the case will be handled by the District Attorney's Gang Prosecution Unit.

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