THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego Police Department

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: April 25, 2008
Time: 2220 hours

CONTACT: Lieutenant Terry McManus
Homicide Unit
(619) 531-2275

HOMICIDE DETECTIVES ANNOUNCE ARREST FOR 2000 MURDER

San Diego Police Homicide detectives announce the arrest of 25-year-old Omar Emanuel Maldonado for the 2000 murder of 17-year-old Leah Tadeo.

On February 17, 2000, Leah Tadeo and her female companion were attending a party at an apartment on Logan Avenue in San Diego. The victim was in a bedroom with approximately 15 other individuals, including the suspect Maldonado. For unknown reasons, the suspect began arguing with the victim. Maldonado retrieved a shotgun from a nearby room and shot Leah Tadeo, killing her instantly.

Omar Maldonado, who was 17-years-old at the time of the murder, was quickly identified as the suspect. The subsequent investigation revealed that Maldonado fled to Mexico to live with relatives. An arrest warrant was issued on March 29, 2000, charging him with the murder of Leah Tadeo.

Due to the work of the San Diego District Attorney's Office in conjunction with authorities in Mexico, a Mexican Provisional Arrest Warrant was granted, allowing for the extradition of Maldonado when located. On October 9, 2007, the State Provisional Police in Tijuana located and arrested Maldonado for the brutal murder of Leah Tadeo.

Today, at approximately 2045 hours, SDPD homicide detectives received custody of Omar Maldonado. He was later taken to county jail.

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