

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Victim Identified in Body Found in Tijuana River Channel on February 21, 2024

San Diego – On Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at approximately 5:33 p.m., the San Diego Police Communications Center received a call from officials with the U.S. Border Patrol about a possible body floating in the water of the Tijuana River Channel located adjacent to the 3000 block of Dairy Mart Road in San Ysidro. This area is a large flood plain which had been flooded in recent weeks due to heavy rain. Officers from Southern Division responded and checked the area. However, due to poor lighting conditions, a strong water flow, vegetation, and debris in the river, they were not able to locate a body. The following morning at approximately 6:50 a.m., Officers returned to the area to resume the search. With the assistance of a helicopter from the U.S. Border Patrol, officers located two bodies in the river channel near a large pile of accumulated debris.

Officers consulted with officials from the San Diego Fire Department River Rescue Team, who ultimately were able to recover both bodies from the river. The San Diego Medical Examiner's office was contacted and upon closer examination of one of the males, it was discovered he had trauma to his upper body that indicated he was the victim of a homicide. That male has been identified as Rodolfo Agosto Castillo-Ancona of Mexico. He is described as a 36-year-old Hispanic male. The second male had no obvious signs of injury that indicated he was the victim of a crime. This male has been identified but his name is not being released due to pending family notifications and further examination by the San Diego County Medical Examiner's office.

It is undetermined if the deaths of the two males are related in any way or if their bodies ended up at the same location due to the recent heavy rains and strong currents in the river that led to their discovery in a location where a large amount of debris had accumulated within the river. This investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to call the Homicide Unit at (619) 531-2293 or Crime Stoppers at (888) 580-8477.

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