

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Arrest In Church's Chicken Murder

San Diego – On November 6, 2019, at 5:30 p.m., the San Diego Police Department Communication Center received a call of a shooting at the Church's Chicken located at 3726 Del Sol Boulevard.

San Diego Police Officers arrived within minutes and found three victims inside the restaurant with gunshot wounds. San Diego Fire-Rescue personnel arrived on scene and transported the victims to nearby hospitals. One of the victims did not survive and was pronounced deceased at the hospital.

SDPD Homicide Unit detectives were called out to the scene to investigate this incident. Through witness statements, detectives learned the suspect walked into the restaurant and ordered food. The suspect got into a verbal argument with employees and left the restaurant. He returned minutes later armed with a handgun and shot at three employees. There were customers inside the restaurant but none were injured. The suspect left in a dark colored sedan northbound on Picador Blvd.

The victim was identified as 28 year-old Maribel Merino Ibanez.

Investigators have been working around the clock since the night of the shooting, which led to a suspect being identified. A warrant was issued for the arrest of Albert Lee Blake, charging him with the murder of Maribel Ibanez. Believing that Blake had fled the state, the assistance of the United States Marshals Service was requested. On November 22, 2019, United States Marshals arrested Albert Blake in Memphis, Tennessee. Blake will face extradition back to San Diego.

The announcement of this arrest was delayed so the family could be notified. Since charges have been filed by the San Diego County District Attorney's Office, we will refer all further media inquiries to their office.

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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