Yuma County Sheriff's Office

Leon N. Wilmot
Sheriff of Yuma County

141 S. 3rd Avenue, Yuma, AZ 85364
Tel: (928) 783-4427 • Fax: (928) 539-7837
www.yumacountysheriff.org

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Tania Pavlak
Phone: (928) 783-4427
DR# 2024-60184

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 18, 2024 – 12:30 PM

UPDATE 3

Homicide

Location of Incident: Avenue G and County 21st Street – San Luis, AZ

Update 3- During the course of the investigation, the Yuma County Sheriff's Office (YCSO) Criminal Investigations Bureau identified a second suspect.

Fernando Malta

On Tuesday, June 18, 2024, the second suspect, identified as Fernando Malta, 34, of Somerton, AZ, was booked into the Yuma County Detention Center for 1st Degree Murder, Possession of Weapon by Prohibited Person, Attempted Arson, Evidence Tampering, and Abandonment/Concealment of Dead Body.

The case remains under investigation.

Update 2- June 11, 2024 – 11:25 AM During the course of the investigation, the Yuma County Sheriff's Office (YCSO) Criminal Investigations Bureau identified a suspect.

Brittney Garcia

On Monday, June 10, 2024, YCSO Investigators, with the assistance of the US Marshals and Somerton Police Department, located and arrested the suspect.

The suspect, identified as Brittney Garcia, 30, of Somerton, AZ, was booked into the Yuma County Detention Center for 1st Degree Murder.

The case remains under investigation.

Update 1–June 7, 2024 – 12:50 PM
The victim of the homicide has been identified as Eric Cruz, 29, of Yuma, AZ. Next of kin notification has been made. This case remains under investigation.

Original – June 6, 2024 – 4:00 PM
On Thursday, June 6, 2024, at approximately 6:58 AM, The Yuma County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of a vehicle in a canal and a deceased male in the area of Avenue G and County 21st Street.

During the initial investigation, it was determined the deceased to be a victim of a homicide. The Yuma County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Bureau responded and assumed the investigation.

Anyone with information regarding this case, please contact the Yuma County Sheriff's Office at 928-783-4427 or 78-CRIME to remain anonymous. You can also visit our website at www.yumacountysheriff.org to submit an anonymous tip.

Information Released By: Tania Pavlak, Public Affairs Specialist