

Stanislaus County
**SHERIFF'S
DEPARTMENT**

Sheriff Adam Christianson
250 E. Hackett Road, Modesto, CA 95358



MEDIA RELATIONS



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DATE: DATE 12-01-10
TIME: TIME 4:00 PM

ARREST MADE IN GANG-RELATED SHOOTING

Modesto, CA – Investigators with the Sheriff's Special Team Investigating Narcotics and Gangs, (STING) along with their patrol counterparts at the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department, have arrested a 23-year-old man believed to have been one of the shooters in yesterday's gang shoot-out in south Modesto. The shooting is believed to have been between two rival gangs and one person was shot during the brazen shoot-out. There were no other injuries reported even though several children were in the area as a middle school is located across the street from where the shooting occurred. The shooting on Tuesday afternoon took place in the 800 block of Glenn Avenue, at a residence known to investigators and area residents to be a house frequented by gang members. The shooting victim is only being identified as a male juvenile from Modesto. He is a self-admitted Norteno gang member and is hospitalized out of the area for non-life threatening gunshot wound. It is not yet clear what the victim's role was during the shoot-out. However, this shooting appears to be yet another dispute in an ongoing neighborhood gang rivalry between Modesto area Nortenos and Surenos.

Sheriff's SWAT executed a search warrant at 808 Glenn Ave., which eventually led to the arrest of one of the suspects, 23-year-old Juan Carlos Mendoza of Modesto, Ca. Mendoza was arrested during a vehicle stop as he was seen leaving the residence just prior to SWAT's arrival. Patrol deputies were able to safely take Mendoza into custody at that time. Mendoza will soon be booked into the Stanislaus County Men's Jail for attempted homicide and criminal street gang activity. He will be held in lieu of at least \$500,000 in bail. Detectives stress the case is still open and the investigation continues, both in terms of who was involved in the shooting, and precisely what specific gang affiliations all of the involved parties may or may not have. Mendoza's booking photograph from November 29, 2010 has been attached to this press release. Detectives have identified a second suspect and are in the process of identifying a third. Their names, ages, hometowns or physical descriptions will not be released at this time.

Stanislaus County Sheriff Adam Christianson said, "This violent criminal street gang activity demonstrates without question the need to keep deputy sheriff's working and not suffer further budget cuts. This senseless gang related shooting was investigated and an arrest was

made within 36 hours because of the outstanding work by our STING team and other detectives and deputy sheriffs”.

Anybody with further information regarding this incident are urged to contact Det. Tom Letras at (209) 567-4481, or they can choose to remain anonymous and call Stanislaus County Area Crime Stoppers toll free at 1-866-602-7463 or locally at 209-521-4636. For information regarding this press release please contact Deputy Luke Schwartz (209) 652-0211 (tschwartz@stanislaussheriff.com).