

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VICTIM RESCUED, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SUSPECT DEAD FOLLOWING CAR CHASE

San Diego – On May 25th around 8:30 p.m., the San Diego Police Department Communications Center received a call regarding a woman who needed help in the 3600 block of Central Avenue in the Castle area.

Officers from Mid-City Division responded and discovered that the 25-year-old woman was the victim of an assault. The victim said that over a two-day period, her 28-year-old boyfriend had hit her in the head with an ax, strangled her, tied her up inside his apartment, and sexually assaulted her. While she was being held captive, he told her that he was going to buy a gun and if the police were called, he would kill her. When the man left the apartment, she managed to escape and asked neighbors for help who then called SDPD.

Detectives from the SDPD Domestic Violence Unit immediately responded to the scene. They confirmed the victim had suffered two broken ribs, swelling to her face, and bruises all over her body. The victim provided the suspect vehicle description, a white BMW X5.

On May 26th at around 1:30 a.m., Mid-City patrol officers spotted the suspect driving the vehicle northbound on I-15 near I-8. Officers attempted to stop the car, but the suspect would not comply. Instead, he led SDPD and CHP officers on a pursuit over several freeways. At one point, officers deployed spike strips and flattened some of the vehicle's tires near I-5 at Del Mar Heights Road. Despite slowing down the car, the suspect still refused to stop. Another set of spike strips were deployed on I-5 near Carlsbad Village.

An SDPD officer was on the phone with the suspect who refused to surrender, saying he had a gun. Two hours later, the man stopped on I-5 just south of the Orange County line near the Cristianitos Road exit. Officers negotiated with him for about an hour and tried to convince him to surrender. Despite the officers' efforts, the suspect drove off again, crossed into San Clemente, and then back southbound on I-5 near the Basilone Road exit. Orange County Sheriff's Department SWAT officers were called in to help contain the suspect's vehicle with armored vehicles.

At about 6:15 a.m., the suspect attempted to drive off again, but the armored vehicles stopped him. Before officers could get the man to surrender, he shot himself in the head. Officers called for paramedics and the suspect was transported to a hospital in Orange County where he died. Investigators later found a gun in the man's car.

SDPD would like to thank CHP and the Orange County Sheriff's Department for their assistance in bringing this dangerous situation to an end.

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