



County of Santa Cruz

Sheriff-Coroner

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Jim Hart
Sheriff-Coroner

Information Release October 17, 2018

Bernardo Rodas Homicide Investigation Case Number: 18-8818

On Saturday, October 13th, 2018 the Sheriff's Office received a report of a body found off the roadway on upper North Rodeo Gulch. Patrol deputies and medical first responders found the body of Bernardo Rodas, age 41, of Santa Cruz. Mr. Rodas was reported to be a missing person on October 10, 2018.

On October 16th, Sheriff's detectives arrested one adult and two minors for the murder of Mr. Rodas:

1. Milton Arias Molina, 22 years old, of San Jose
2. Minor, age 17, of Capitola
3. Minor, age 15, of Santa Cruz

A forensic autopsy is in-progress. The pathologist has determined the manner of death is homicide. The cause of death is pending completion of the examination.

Sheriff's detectives continue to investigate the murder of Mr. Rodas. The Sheriff's Office is not ready to release information about motive, suspect gang affiliation or if there are additional suspects.

The case has been referred to the District Attorney for prosecution.

Anyone with information about this case should contact Sergeant Dee Baldwin at 831.454.7635 or email at Dee.Baldwin@santacruzcounty.us.

Craig Wilson,
Undersheriff