



EAST PALO ALTO POLICE DEPT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For additional Information:

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“2 Suspects arrested for double shooting on 29 December 2006”

January 2nd 2007 – On January 1st 2007 two separate suspects were taken into custody and charged with 1 count of Murder and 1 count of Attempted Murder. These suspects are responsible for the shooting death of a 19 year old female identified as Melevea Fifita and a second victim identified as Seu Tuimavave who was also shot but survived her injuries on the 29th of December 2006 at 10:34 pm in the 2700 block of Fordham Street.

The first suspect who is a 17 year old male and an East Palo Alto resident was arrested at 6:30 pm. The second suspect identified as Absalom Tuimavave who is 18 years of age and an East Palo Alto resident was arrested at 7:30 pm.

To date, the investigation has revealed that on the night of December 29th 2006 at 10:34 pm, the 2 female victims were involved in a physical altercation in the 2700 block of Fordham Street. As the altercation escalated, the 2 male suspects got involved by acting as support for each of the females. During the altercation both male suspects produced firearms and began shooting at each other.

The 17 year old suspect was firing a handgun at suspect Tuimavave. As he was shooting, the 17 year old suspect inadvertently shot and killed the victim Fifita.

The second suspect Tuimavave was firing a shotgun at the 17 year old suspect and also inadvertently shot his sister Seu Tuimavave in the pelvis.

The 17 year old suspect was booked into the Hillcrest Juvenile Facility. Suspect Tuimavave was booked into the San Mateo County main jail.

Anyone with further information about this incident is asked to contact East Palo Alto Police Detectives Tracy Turner or Ed Soares at (650) 853-3131 or (650) 853-TIPS (8477)