

June 2009

NC's Most Wanted

Alex Soto

Aliases: Aaron Arellano, Fernando Arana, Chino

Wanted For: Conspiracy to distribute more than 5 kilograms of cocaine and 100 kilograms of marijuana

Profile:

Sex: Male

Ethnicity: Hispanic

Age: 28

Height: 5'

Weight: 140 lbs.

Hair: Black

Eyes: Brown

WAYNE COUNTY — Alex Soto has managed to elude authorities for more than three years. He's wanted for conspiracy to distribute more than five kilograms of cocaine and 100 kilograms of marijuana.

For months, federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in North Carolina joined forces to bust a Mexico-based drug cartel that had smaller distribution cells in the Wayne County areas of Goldsboro and Mount Olive. Authorities say Soto, along with a co-conspirator named Arnulfo Ramirez, was coordinating with a lawyer in Mexico, Alfredo Granados-Garcia, to bring multi-kilo quantities of cocaine and marijuana into the U.S. on a regular basis. After wire taps and even witnessing deals made to third party clients, authorities gathered enough evidence to obtain arrest warrants.

On June 10, 2004, authorities executed their plan to take down some of the main players of this organization, including Soto, Garcia and Ramirez, during a sting called "Operation Gold Rush." But during the round-up, Alex Soto managed to escape custody. After being placed in a police vehicle, he wriggled out of his handcuffs, exited the car and took off on foot. This is the last time Soto has reportedly been seen in the Wayne County area.

Authorities believe Soto could be living under the name "Aaron Arellano," "Fernando Arana" or "Chino."

If you have information on this case, call NC WANTED toll free at 1.866.43.WANTED or click on "Report a Tip." Your information will be kept confidential.

Last Seen: Investigators received word that Soto was last spotted in Morelia in the Mexican state of Michoacan.

Possible Locations: Goldsboro, NC
Mount Olive, NC
Michoacan, Mexico

Phu Tan Nguyen

Wanted For: Murder

Profile:

Sex: Male

Ethnicity: Vietnamese

Age: 33

Height: 5'5"

Weight: 120 lbs.

Hair: Black

Eyes: Brown

Possible vehicles: Black Honda

WAKE COUNTY —: Most murders happen behind closed doors, but this murder took place in broad daylight, in front of multiple witnesses. Authorities say on February 10, 1996, 22-year-old Trieu Thanh Do met Phu Tan Nguyen and some of his friends at the Saigon Restaurant, located at 2259 New Hope Road, in Raleigh. As the two were talking, someone said something that sends tempers flaring. Witnesses said Do and Nguyen erupted into a heated argument, attracting the attention of people sitting nearby. At that point, Nguyen and his friends left the restaurant. A few minutes later, Do exited and headed back to his car. Eyewitnesses said that as Do was walking to his car, Nguyen came out of nowhere, pulled out a gun and shot him right there in the parking lot. As Do collapsed, police say Nguyen jumped into a 1990 black Honda and sped away.

Police say Nguyen was living on Sierra Drive in Raleigh at the time of the murder. This is the same address where investigators found the black Honda Nguyen used as his getaway car.

Nguyen has family in Raleigh, but if he's still in the area, it's possible he could be using an alias.

Last Seen: Nguyen was last seen on October 2nd, 1996 outside the Saigon Restaurant at 2259 New Hope Church Road in Raleigh, NC.

Possible Locations: Raleigh, NC Authorities believe Nguyen had family in the Raleigh, NC area at the time of the incident and may still have family living in the Raleigh area.

Reward: An undisclosed amount is being offered for information leading to Nguyen's arrest.

Celestino Gutierrez-Molina

Alias: He might use Gutierrez or Molina as his last name

Wanted For:

1st degree rape – Chapel Hill, NC

Indecent liberties with a minor – Chapel Hill, NC

Unlawful flight to avoid prosecution – FBI

Profile:

Sex: Male

Ethnicity: Hispanic

Age: 46

Height: 5'9"

Weight: 190 lbs.

Hair: Dark brown

Mustache

Eyes: Brown

Occupation: Construction, laborer

ORANGE COUNTY —: Celestino Gutierrez-Molina is wanted for first degree rape and indecent liberties with a minor. Authorities say on October 1, 2006, the 45-year-old Mexican native molested his 10-year-old niece while he was visiting relatives in Chapel Hill, NC. Police believe immediately after the assault, Gutierrez-Molina fled his relative's residence on foot and walked to the nearby town of Carrboro. That's when he allegedly met up with a friend who lived in the Abby Court apartment complex and bummed a ride to RDU-International airport.

As Gutierrez-Molina was en route to the airport, the victim notified her aunt and uncle of the incident. They immediately contacted the police and rushed the girl to the emergency room where doctors discovered physical evidence of the assault.

Gutierrez-Molina is originally from Mexico, but authorities say because his wife knows what happened, he might be too afraid to return home. Police say he also has relatives in the Tarboro area.

Last Seen: The morning of October the 1st, 2006, Chapel Hill, NC

Possible Locations: Gutierrez-Molina has relatives in the Tarboro, NC area. He is originally from Mexico and was visiting family in Chapel Hill, NC when this incident occurred, so police say he could be in Tarboro or could have fled back to Mexico. However, police say since his wife knows what happened, Gutierrez-Molina might be too scared to go back to Mexico.

Reward: A reward of \$1200 is being offered to information leading to Gutierrez-Molina's arrest.

Omar Ocampo Figueroa

Wanted For: Murder

Assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill

Profile:

Sex: Male

Ethnicity: Hispanic

Age: 35

Height: 5'7"

Weight: 210 lbs

MOORE COUNTY —: Omar Ocampo Figueroa is wanted by the Aberdeen Police Department and the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation for the murder of his ex-girlfriend Silvia Cuevas and attempted murder of her co-worker and friend, Angel Martinez.

On December 23, 1999, authorities say Silvia Cuevas returned from her shift break at the McDonald's off US-1 in Aberdeen. Figueroa allegedly approached her in the parking lot with a box of clothes.

When Cuevas refused to take the box, the situation erupted into a heated altercation. One of Cuevas' co-workers, Angel Martinez, stepped in to help. Enraged, authorities believe Figueroa pulled out a knife, stabbed Martinez through the left arm, cut him on the left side of his body and slashed his hands. Martinez yelled for Cuevas to run for help, but it was too late.

Figueroa allegedly caught Cuevas by the back of her hair and fatally stabbed her once through the chest.

Last Seen: Taylortown, NC

Tattoos: Figueroa has a tattoo of a fish on his right arm and a bear and a heart on his left arm.

Possible Location: Authorities say Figueroa still has family residing in Davis Drive Park in the West End area of Moore County. He was last seen on December 23, 1999 by a Taylortown police officer, heading west on Archie Road toward Montgomery County. He was driving a 2-door, 1990 black Dodge Daytona with the license tag MPR-5733. Anyone who comes in contact with him should proceed with caution.

Louis Avendano

Alias: Louis Avendano Maldonado

Wanted For: Murder

Profile:

Sex: Male

Ethnicity: Hispanic

Age: 36

Height: 5'8"

Weight: 145 lbs.
Hair Color: Brown
Eye Color: Brown

WAKE COUNTY —: On February 28, 1996, authorities say Louis Avendano shot and killed Raul Torres Guillen. Avendano was living in at duplex at 2704 Simpkin Road with three other individuals, including the victim.

After coming home from work and having a few drinks, Avendano and Guillen went over to their neighbor's house, who lived in the other half of the duplex at 2706 Simpkin Road. The neighbor who lived at the 2706 Simpkin Road was sleeping in the back bedroom of his house. Because there were no other witnesses present, authorities have not been able to determine why Avendano shot Guillen.

What they do know is the two had a history of getting into arguments with each other. When the shot from the handgun went off, the man living at the residence woke up to find Guillen lying dead on the floor with one bullet wound to the chest. Meanwhile, when the two other roommates who lived in the house with Avendano and the victim heard the gunshot, they too ran over to see what had happened. That's when they say they saw Avendano crawl out the side window and run toward the woods..

Traits/Habits: It's possible that Avendano lost both his legs during a train accident a couple months after this incident.

Possible location: Raleigh, NC; Atlanta, GA; Mexico City

Jose Padilla

Aliases: Francisco Padilla; Daniel Noel Servos

Wanted for: Murder

Profile:

Sex: Male

Ethnicity: Hispanic

Age: 26 or 29

Height: 5'8"

Weight: 150 lbs.

Hair: Black

Eyes: Brown

ALAMANCE COUNTY —: Jose Padilla and an accomplice, who has never been identified, have managed to elude authorities for seven years.

In June 2001, Padilla and a friend met three men at a truck stop in Alamance County to purchase a large quantity of marijuana. The three men delivering the drugs did not recognize the other man.

The five men drove from the truck stop to a corn field in Orange County. Following a brief exchange, it was clear to the three sellers that Padilla did not have the money, but intended to leave with the drugs. Padilla and his accomplice opened fire at the group. Authorities believe the suspects were using a 9 millimeter and a 40 caliber weapon.

All three men were hit. One of the victims, Jorge, was grazed by a bullet and fell to the ground, faking his death. Jorge waited for Padilla and the accomplice to leave before he got up and called a friend who lived near the scene. His friend arrived and they drove through the cornfield in hopes of finding Jorge's companions still alive.

The other two men had been killed.

Possible locations: Authorities believe Jose Padilla could have family in the Burlington area. It's possible Padilla's family may have had contact with him since the shooting incident. Authorities also believe Padilla could have fled to Mexico.

Erick Robles Mendoza

Wanted for: Murder

Profile:

Sex: Male

Ethnicity: Hispanic

Age: 28

Height: 5'6"

Weight: 160 lbs.

Hair: Black

Eyes: Brown

WAKE COUNTY —: On Saturday, June 14, 2008 around 2 a.m., Raleigh police responded to a call off Peyton Street. That's where they found 37-year-old Miguel Najara Martinez.

The victim was taken to WakeMed hospital where he was pronounced dead. Authorities say 28-year-old Erick Robles Mendoza is responsible for Martinez's death.

Mendoza is a Hispanic male who stands at 5'6' and weighs about 160 pounds. He was last seen driving a brown 2000 Chevy Tahoe with North Carolina Blue Ridge Parkway tags X757. Authorities say the car has plastic covering the passenger side door.

Vehicle: Brown, 2000 Chevy Tahoe with NC Blue Ridge Parkway tags X757; plastic covering passenger window

Claudio Gutierrez Cruz

Wanted for: Murder

Unlawful flight to avoid prosecution

Profile:

Sex: Male

Ethnicity: Hispanic

Age: 40

Height: 5'4'

Weight: 135 lbs.

Hair: Black

Eyes: Brown

CUMBERLAND COUNTY —: Claudio Gutierrez-Cruz is wanted for shooting and killing 44-year-old Francisco Lopez Batista on the premises of Fort Bragg.

The FBI told NC WANTED that Gutierrez-Cruz had contracted with Fort Bragg to collect pine straw on a particular piece of property. On June 14, 2005, Gutierrez-Cruz had just finished fishing with his young son. The two were riding around when he happened to see three individuals collecting pine straw on that piece of land. According to witness statements, Gutierrez-Cruz grabbed his shotgun and aimed it towards Batista. Batista was shot in the abdomen and thigh. He received medical attention, but died the next day.

Authorities determined Gutierrez-Cruz premeditated the crime. They say he maneuvered himself into a position that gave him direct aim at the victim. The shot was fired to harm, injure or kill Batista.

Gutierrez-Cruz was eventually charged with first degree murder on federal property.

The FBI also told NC WANTED that the last point of contact from Gutierrez-Cruz was on June 17, 2005 when he stayed overnight in a hotel in Sanford, North Carolina.

It's possible that Gutierrez-Cruz could be living on a ranch/farm in the Bella Vista Del Rio area of Cadereyta, Queretaro, Mexico, with his wife and three children. He grew up in this area and is considered one of the wealthier citizens in the area. But he and his family may have fled from the area and could be living in Mexico City, Mexico. Gutierrez-Cruz may be driving a newer model, maroon pick-up truck. Gutierrez-Cruz is also known to travel into South Carolina and Texas.

Possible Locations: Cadereyta, Queretaro, Mexico; Mexico City, Mexico; South Carolina; Texas

Jose Manuel Torres Miranda

Wanted for: Murder

UNION COUNTY — When Theresa McClung arrived at her father's house on June 10, 2003, she found him dead on his living room floor covered in blood.

Charles Hanley, 75, a former volunteer firefighter, had been stabbed more than 15 times with a screwdriver.

“There wasn’t anybody that didn’t like my father. He was such an outgoing, very likable person that I could not understand why anyone would want to take his life. And basically, I was numb. I couldn’t really feel emotion and all I wanted was help,” McClung recalled.

Heartbroken, she waited for answers. In time, those answers came. Timothy Kennedy and Jose Manuel Torres Miranda were charged with murder. Hanley worked with Kennedy at a local paving company, and Kennedy often took advantage of Hanley’s generosity by coming over to borrow money. This time, he brought Miranda with him.

Once inside, the two men attacked Hanley, said Lt. Cody Luke of the Union County Sheriff’s Office, and robbed him.

“They killed him for not very much money at all,” he said.

McClung told NC WANTED that the men killed her father for drugs and a prostitute. And although the case is solved, she still waits for answers.

While Kennedy sits in jail, Miranda is on the loose. He has eluded justice for six years, but investigators and McClung hope that someone will come forward with information leading to his arrest.

Miranda is on the State Bureau of Investigation’s Most Wanted list, and Lt. Luke said all indications suggest that Miranda has fled to Mexico. The Union County Sheriff’s Office contacted INTERPOL, the International Criminal Police Organization, to request that they issue an international bulletin for Miranda’s capture.

Possible Locations: Unknown

Ten arrested on prostitution charges

<http://www.thetimesnews.com/news/crime-25616-nature-officer.html>

After investigating complaints from the community for a month, Burlington police officers arrested 10 people on prostitution charges Friday evening.

"Multiple undercover officers were utilized in an effort to combat the illicit and obvious prostitution that has been occurring in the South Ireland Street area," Burlington police said in a news release.

Arrested as a result of the investigation were:

- **Aurelio Miguel Escobar**, 24, of N.C. 49, Green Level. Escobar was charged with soliciting crimes against nature. He was released after posting a \$1,000 bond. His next court date is July 21.
- **Sergio Lopez Miguel**, 43, of N.C. 49, Green Level. Miguel was charged with soliciting crimes against nature. He was released after posting a \$1,000 bond. His next court date is July 21.
- **Melvin Davis Robinson**, 57 of Cone Street, Burlington. Robinson was charged with two counts of solicitation of prostitution and one count of carrying a concealed weapon (.38 revolver). His bond was set at \$2,500. His next court date is July 15.
- **Transito Hernandez**, 32, of Elmira Street, Burlington. Hernandez was charged with solicitation of prostitution. He was released after posting a \$1,000 bond. His next court date is July 21.
- **Jose Dario**, 23, of North Main Street, Burlington. Dario was charged with solicitation of prostitution. He was released after posting a \$1,000 bond. His next court date is July 21.
- **Timia Emily Janette Williams**, 24 of Ford Street, Burlington. Williams was charged with solicitation of prostitution and soliciting crimes against nature from an unknown man. Her bond was set at \$1,500. Her next court date is July 17.
- **Jose Gabriel Tolentino-Ortiz**, 25, of Payne Road, Graham. Tolentino-Ortiz was charged with driving without a license and solicitation of prostitution. His bond was set at \$1,000. His next court date is July 14.
- **Panfilo Urbina Cruz**, 24, of Payne Road, Burlington. Urbina-Cruz was charged with solicitation of prostitution. He also faces an open container violation. His bond was set at \$1,000. His next court date is July 14.
- **Fondra Faye Dove Mitchell**, 44, of North Church Street, Burlington. Mitchell was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, soliciting crimes against nature, crime against nature, and solicitation of prostitution. According to a warrant, she performed a crime against nature with an undercover officer. She was released after posting a \$2,500 bond. Her next court date is Monday.
- **Ismael Zepeda Silva**, 58, of Rosenwald Street, Burlington. Zepeda-Silva was charged with solicitation of prostitution. He was released after posting a \$1,000 bond. His next court date is July 21.

Five Hurt In Highway 96 Crash

<http://www.wtsbradio.com/pages/localnews.html>

Five people, including two children, were injured in a two-car collision Wednesday morning on Highway 96 South at Spring Lake Road outside of Four Oaks. The Highway Patrol said the 6:30am collision was caused when **Jose Marcos** failed to stop for a stop sign on his GMC truck and struck a Honda driven by **Lacia Esquivel Castanada** of Thompson Road, Four Oaks. Both drivers and three passengers in the Honda, including a two year-old, were taken to Johnston Medical Center in Smithfield and Wake Med in Raleigh. Trooper D.T. Sharpe said none of the injuries were life threatening. Marcos was cited for failing to stop at a stop sign.

Illegal immigrant, 20, charged with having sex with girl, 13, in Bridgeton

<http://www.nj.com/bridgeton/index.ssf?/base/news-5/124460700491540.xml&coll=10>

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

By SEAN C. McCULLEN

BRIDGETON - A 20-year-old illegal immigrant, who was living here, has been charged with sexually assaulting a teenage girl he met on a social-networking Web site about three weeks ago, according to police.

The 13-year-old girl was reported missing at around 9 a.m. Monday after she walked away from her bus stop at East and Irving avenues.

Police allege **Serafin S. Hernandez**, who was living in the 100 block of Oak Street, arranged to have someone drive him over to the city's Milltown section to pick up the girl near her bus stop Monday morning.

Hernandez allegedly had sex with the girl at his home before taking her back to the area of her bus stop around 3:15 p.m.

Bridgeton Police Det. Sean Peek arrested Hernandez at that point.

Peek, who was assigned the missing-persons case, anticipated the girl would return to her bus stop at the end of the school day, Det. Lt. Michael Gaimari said.

He had learned the girl was seen leaving the area in the company of an adult male.

Hernandez and the girl had met at least once in person before Monday, according to police, but both indicated they had not previously had sex.

The 20-year-old man and 13-year-old girl met on My Space, a popular social-networking Web site, according to police.

Hernandez was charged with sexual assault and endangering the welfare of a child. He was lodged in Cumberland County Jail on \$25,000 bail.

Police believe Hernandez is in the country illegally. Immigration and Customs Enforcement issued a detainer against Hernandez, according to police.

In New Jersey, anyone who has sex with a minor who is at least 13 years old but less than 16 while being at least four years older than the minor can be charged with sexual assault, even if the sex is consensual.

Hernandez and the victim refused to identify the person who drove Hernandez to pick up the teenage girl after she walked away from her bus stop, Gaimari said.

Gaimari credited Peek for his work on the case.

"It was a nice job by Detective Peek and all the others who assisted him on the case," he said.

Neighbor Convicted Of Raping 13 Year-Old

<http://www.wtsbradio.com/pages/localnews.html>

A Smithfield man charged with raping a 13 year-old girl living near his home in the Blackmon's Mobile Home Park on Galilee Road in Smithfield in January has been sentenced to prison. Horacio Melchor Lopez, 23, had been charged with statutory rape. Under a plea arrangement, Lopez entered a guilty plea to taking indecent liberties with a child. He was sentenced to 10 to 12 months in the Department of Corrections. After his arrest in January, authorities said it appeared the victim and suspect had consensual sex. The young girl's parents reported the crime, police said.