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**NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

Date: August 23, 2004

Re: Arthur Sanchez

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MODESTO, CALIFORNIA –

Stanislaus County District Attorney Jim Brazelton and Turlock Chief of Police Ronald Lott jointly announced today that a criminal complaint has been filed in the Stanislaus County Superior Court charging Arthur Sanchez, age 41, with the offenses of rape and murder.

Sanchez, formerly of Turlock, has been charged with the brutal rape and murder of Mary Martha Odermatt which occurred on August 11, 1986 behind the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Turlock.

Sanchez has been incarcerated at the California Department of Corrections since his conviction for the rape and murder of a Keyes teenager in 1986, the rape and attempted murder of a Modesto woman also in 1986 and the rape of another Modesto woman in 1982. Sanchez will be arraigned on the new charges upon his delivery from the Department of Corrections.

Brazelton and Lott commend the Turlock detectives who have continued to work on this case over the past 18 years.

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