



Chief of Police Carl Dabadie

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATTEMPTED MURDER SUSPECT ARRESTED

MANUEL A. MEJIA, 40 of 1122 Epperson Drive Baker, Louisiana, was arrested today and charged with Attempted First Degree Murder, Second Degree Kidnapping and First Degree Rape.

Investigators believe that MEJIA contacted the victim, 38-year-old female, last night in the 8400 block of Harry Drive around 11:30pm as the two agreed to engage in sexual intercourse. The victim willingly entered MEJIA'S vehicle and was driven to his residence. While at the residence, MEJIA struck the victim in the head with a handgun, bound her arms and legs and proceeded to rape her for several hours without her consent. Afterwards, in addition to leaving her bound, he gagged her placing her on the floorboard of his vehicle to conceal her from view. MEJIA then returned the victim to the area where he initially picked her up. While leaving her bound and gagged, he cut her throat with a sharp object and left her in the parking lot. The victim was found by a passerby who rendered aid until EMS arrived. The victim was transported to a local hospital and is expected to survive her injuries.

MEJIA was taken in to custody with the assistance of Baker Police Department and was later booked in the East Baton Rouge Parish Prison on charges of Attempted First Degree Murder, Second Degree Kidnapping and First Degree Rape.

ADVISORY ONLY – NOT FOR RELEASE OR PUBLICATION

The suspect in the above described case is expected to be transported from the Violent Crimes Unit at LSP HQ at approximately 7:00pm today for any media wishing to obtain photographs. For the security of everyone, any media present will be required to remain a safe distance and must not approach the prisoner or the detectives.

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