



Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
Joe Arpaio, Sheriff

NEWSRelease

Release: April 3, 2013

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Summary: *Man Kills Aguila Mother After She Denies Him Romantic Access to Her Underage Daughter*
Suspect In Custody, Arrested by Sheriff's Deputies

Date: April 3, 2013

Narrative: Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio says his deputies arrested 25 year old Jose Zarate, (DOB 1/7/88), today in connection with the April 1st shooting death of Aguila, Arizona resident Maria Saucedo. Zarate was captured by Sheriff's deputies this morning at his home in Aguila where he returned after initially fleeing the shooting scene located at 51236 West Powell Street. Aguila is a small rural town just west of Wickenburg, about 45 miles northwest of Phoenix.

According to Sheriff's investigators, sometime around 9:30pm on April 1, 2013, Zarate went to the home of 31 year old Saucedo and her 13 year old daughter to allegedly express an interest in pursuing a romantic relationship with the underage teen. During the confrontation, the mother denied his request, and that's when investigators say Zarate took out a rifle and shot the victim in the chest at close range in the presence of the 13 year old.

One of several witnesses to the crime apparently disarmed Zarate before he fled the area on foot. Sheriff's deputies responded to the scene and administered CPR on the victim until paramedics arrived but she died at the scene.

Sheriff's deputies say Zarate is a non-U.S. citizen who has been living in the country without proper authorization.

Zarate was booked into the 4th Avenue Jail on the following charges: 2nd Degree Murder, 2 counts of Aggravated Assault and Possession of a Weapon by a Prohibited Person.

Comment by Sheriff Joe Arpaio:

"How awful this is that a mother loses her life in the process of defending her daughter's honor."