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Polk Sheriff's Office News Release

Sheriff Grady Judd

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Home Invasion-Armed Robbery Uncovers Grow House Operation

"Three more have been arrested. Another 'grow operation' dismantled," said Sheriff Grady Judd. "We will not tolerate these operations, nor the criminals they attract."

Through the end of October 2007, Polk County Sheriff's detectives had dismantled 30 operations, recovered over 5000 plants and arrested 54 suspects. Over \$28,000.00 dollars has been seized, along with a 2005 Ford Mustang. Over the weekend, deputies dismantled another.

At approximately 12:17 pm, Sunday, November 4, 2007, Pedro Gonzalez, DOB 7/16/1980, 341 Kingfish Drive, Poinciana, was walking out of the garage of the residence when he was approached by three subjects.

Gonzalez was struck with an unknown object and was forced back into the residence. He was held against his will while the three suspects ransacked the house removing marijuana plants that were being cultivated inside.

Gonzalez was able to break away and ran from the suspects. Neighbors in the area heard the commotion and called for assistance.

Deputies arrived and secured the scene locating two of the suspects. A third remains at large. He is described as a Latin male.



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Arrested were Raul Liranzo Cruzata, DOB 8/27/1968, 30521 SW 188th Court, Homestead, and his son, Raul Liranzo Bandera, DOB 7/9/1987, also of 30521 SW 188th Court, Homestead. Father and son were booked into the Polk County jail on charges of Armed Kidnapping, Armed Robbery, and Occupied Burglary with Battery.



Liranzo Cruzata

Gonzales was taken to Heart of Florida Hospital in Lake Wales where he was treated for lacerations to his head. He is charged with Cultivation of Cannabis, Trafficking Cannabis over 25 Pounds, and Maintaining a Dwelling for Drug Use and Sale. He too was booked into the jail after receiving treatment for injuries he sustained in the Armed Home Invasion/Robbery.

Inside the residence, detectives found an elaborate lighting and irrigation system with evidence of approximately 62 plants. (The suspects had attempted to cut and remove much of what was being grown.)

Outside the house, there were two air conditioning units and the windows of the house were covered. A thick privacy fence surrounded the property.

Residents are reminded that “Grow-house” activity can include, but is not limited to, windows of the residence being covered at all times; cars that arrive, stay for short periods of time and leave; florescent lightening at all hours; no garbage outside that would indicate people are occupying the residence, and residents who are reclusive or avoid contact with other neighbors.



Liranzo Bandera

“I encourage residents to be vigilant as they come and go within their neighborhoods, watching for suspicious activity,” said Sheriff Grady Judd. “We must work cooperatively to put pressure on criminals who believe they can disguise their crimes in our neighborhoods.”

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Residents are encouraged to report suspicious activity immediately to the Polk County Sheriff’s Office at 863.534.0344.