



## **Banning Police Department**

321 W. Ramsey Street, Banning, CA 92220 (951) 922-3170

---

### *Press Release*

**Date:** 05-29-09

Case #09-1878

**Location:** Interstate 10 and Hargrave Avenue, Banning, CA

**Incident:** Arrest of Gang Members Possessing Illegal Weapons

---

On 5-29-09, at 12:07 a.m., Banning Police Officers stopped a suspicious vehicle that was driving through a residential neighborhood in the area of Hoffer Street and Florida Street. This area was struck with gang violence earlier in the week when an East Side Banning SAPO gang member was shot during a dispute with a rival 18<sup>th</sup> Street gang member. The vehicle was occupied by 22 year old George Quintanilla of Banning, 18 year old Christopher Lavoie of Banning and a 17 year old male juvenile who also resides in Banning. The investigation revealed that Quintanilla is currently on parole with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and a documented member of the SAPO street gang. Additionally, Lavoie and the juvenile were identified as documented associates of the SAPO street gang. During a subsequent search of their vehicle, officers found an illegal assault rifle and an illegal semi-automatic handgun. The rifle had the butt stock removed and the barrel shortened and both the rifle and the handgun had their serial numbers tampered with. In addition to the firearms, officers located high capacity magazines, bullets for each firearm and gang paraphernalia. Quintanilla and Lavoie were booked into the Larry D. Smith Correctional Facility for various weapons and gang charges and the juvenile was booked into Riverside County Juvenile Hall for the same.

Inquires: Banning Police Department, (951) 922-3175