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NEWS RELEASE



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Chilean International Theft Group Charged with Burglary

Case #: 2022028869

VENTURA, Calif. - District Attorney Erik Nasarenko has announced charges against three members of a South American Theft Group, all identified by Customs and Border Protection's National Targeting Center as Chilean nationals.

Luis Estaban Castillo Vivar (DOB 06/09/97), Michel Estefano Contreras Belmar (DOB 01/31/92) and a juvenile defendant were charged with burglary, conspiracy, possessing fake documents, and possession of burglary tools.

On November 9, 2022, the three defendants are accused of breaking into a Thousand Oaks home. The homeowner reportedly watched security cameras from his cell phone as they attempted to break a backyard sliding glass door and access a second-story window. The homeowner called 9-1-1 and Ventura County Sheriff's Office Deputies arrived to observe multiple suspects running from the home. After a foot pursuit, two suspects were arrested and the third was found a short distance from the residence.

Multiple forms of fake international identification, property from the residence, a crowbar, window punch and screwdrivers were located.

On Monday, November 14, 2022, both adult defendants pled not guilty at arraignment. They are scheduled to return for an early disposition conference on November 23, 2022. Bail was set at \$50,000 each.

The juvenile defendant's arraignment was continued to November 22, 2022. They remain detained at the Ventura County Juvenile Facility.