



SHERIFF
East Baton Rouge Parish
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East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office News Advisory

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EBRSO Detective Revives Old Murder Case and Makes Arrest

An East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Detective of the Unresolved Homicide Unit revived a 21-year-old murder case and made an arrest yesterday after reviewing old evidence. After requesting a new review of the evidence, the detective was able to link fingerprints found at the scene of the crime to a man in the Automated Fingerprint Identification System database.

Edward Belin, 51, of 2946 Monroe Avenue is charged with Principal to First-Degree Murder. Detectives have evidence linking Belin to the death of Leonard Noriega, 44, of 7176 Skylark Street. Noriega was discovered dead in his home on December 3, 1992 by his son bound with electrical cord and a white cloth bludgeoned to death with a blunt instrument. Noriega had not been seen by his neighbors or family for at least two weeks. The residence had been thoroughly ransacked; all rooms and even the air conditioning and heat vents had been pulled out.

Fingerprint evidence was found in the residence, including on one of the central air vents that had been forcibly pulled out. The EBRSO Unresolved Homicide Detective pulled the old files and evidence of this case in May 2012. The evidence for possible DNA extraction was sent to the LSP Crime Lab, and results linking Belin to the case were returned on February 1, 2013.

"I started an Unresolved Homicide Unit in 2012 for exactly this purpose," Sheriff Sid Gautreaux said. "There are many cases from years past that went unsolved for whatever reason. New reviews of these cases, new technological advances and new evidence may result in justice being served. If we can take a killer off the street, even 20 years later, and give closure to a family, we are going to do that."

This is an ongoing investigation and other arrests may be pending.

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