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# Media Release

Kermit Miller, Chief of Police

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Date: April 28, 2009  
Contact: Sgt. Fabian Pacheco

## COLD CASE HOMICIDE ARREST

Tucson Police Department Cold Case Detectives are pleased to announce that an arrest has been made in connection with the 1990 stabbing death of **55 year-old Dr. Rashad Khalifa**, of Tucson. **52 year-old Glen C. Francis**, was arrested today by Calgary Police Services, Calgary Canada, on an international provisional arrest warrant, charging him with 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Murder.

On January 31, 1990, Dr. Khalifa was found stabbed to death inside his place of employment, the Masjid of Tucson, located at 739 E. 6<sup>th</sup> St. The location was modified to be utilized as a mosque and office. The investigation revealed that Dr. Khalifa had received numerous death threats in the months preceding his murder. A person of interest known as Benjamin Phillips, arrived at the mosque in January of 1990 and was allowed to study Islam with Dr. Khalifa. Mr. Phillips was not seen again in the Tucson area following the murder. Detectives learned that Mr. Phillips fled the country in 1991 and did not return until 1994. In April of 1994, the FBI in Dallas, Texas interviewed Mr. Phillips. He was using the name Joseph Wall and denied ever being in Tucson. The subsequent investigation led Tucson Police Department Detectives to Georgia, where family members positively identified Mr. Phillips/Wall as Glen Cusford Francis, a citizen of Trinidad. Detectives located additional family members in Canada, and traveled there to interview them. Latent prints recovered from the Tucson apartment of Mr. Phillips/Wall were positively matched to Mr. Francis.

In January of 2006, the Tucson Police Cold Case Unit began working on this case along with Criminalists from the Tucson Police Department Crime Laboratory. In December 2008 extensive forensic DNA evidence recovered from the murder scene was found to be consistent with Mr. Francis' profile.

Tucson Police Cold Case Detectives along with the Pima County Attorneys Office began to work closely with Canadian authorities to locate Mr. Francis. At the same time, an arrest warrant for Mr. Francis was obtained in Pima County. The U.S. Marshals office in Tucson worked closely with their Canadian counterparts, the Tucson Police Department, the Pima County Attorneys Office, which resulted in the issuance of a Provisional Arrest Warrant. Mr. Francis was arrested April 28, 2009 by Canadian authorities and is awaiting extradition to the United States to face 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Murder charges in Tucson. This extensive investigation illustrates the hard work and dedication on behalf of cold case detectives and is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Tucson Police Department.