

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Gunfire and Burglary Lead to Arrests Under 'Operation Domino Effect' in Frederiksted

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From left to right, mugshots of Adiel Huertas, Jaheem Maxwell and Angel Rosa Jr. By. THE VIRGIN ISLANDS POLICE DEPARTMENT.

ST. CROIX — Frederiksted witnessed a flurry of law enforcement operations last month as part of the VIPD's 'Operation Domino Effect'. A sequence of events, beginning with a shooting incident on April 21, culminated in the execution of search and arrest warrants leading to multiple arrests on Thursday, according to the police department.

The VIPD said the 911 Emergency Call Center received distress calls at approximately 10:13 p.m. on April 21, indicating shots being fired at the Mutual Homes Housing

Apartments. Arriving officers were informed of a gunshot victim at the location. The victim reportedly identified the shooters as Adiel O. Huertas, known locally as "Macho," and Jaheem A. Maxwell, the VIPD said.

Following the investigation, a V.I. Superior Court Judge granted search warrants for Huertas and Maxwell's residences. The Criminal Investigation Bureau and Special Operations Bureau executed the warrants on Thursday. The officers reportedly discovered a firearm at the residence and placed Huertas, 18, and Maxwell, 26, under arrest. Both individuals were charged with carrying firearms, either openly or concealed, and remanded to the John Bell Correctional Facility pending their Advice of Rights Hearing scheduled for May 26.

In an unrelated incident on Thursday, Angel Rosa Jr., 19, was arrested following a burglary at the Heavy Materials Quarry located at Mount Pellier, Frederiksted. The authorities had obtained an arrest warrant on May 12 after two individuals were caught on video burglarizing the quarry on October 10, 2022. Rosa was charged with third-degree burglary, unauthorized use of a vehicle, and grand larceny. He was detained at the John Bell Adult Correctional Facility pending his Advice of Rights Hearing that was scheduled for today.

In addition to these incidents, a minor was arrested for possession of a firearm as part of the 'Operation Domino Effect'. This case is currently under the purview of the Juvenile Division.