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Police make arrests in machete murder case

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CTV.ca News Staff

Date: Tuesday Sep. 26, 2006 2:18 PM ET

A man wanted by police in connection with a gruesome machete murder in Scarborough was arrested inside a Hamilton home on Tuesday.

Toronto and Hamilton officers raided the home at about 10 a.m. and arrested 19-year-old Sujana Abeyewardene, of Richmond Hill, without incident, police said.

He is charged with first-degree murder in the Sept. 17 death of Piratheep Tharmakulasingam, 25, who died after being run over and attacked with a machete.

Police also arrested a Brampton woman, Maryza Salgadoe, 19, inside the Hamilton home. She is charged with accessory after the fact to murder.

Both were to appear in court Tuesday.

Tharmakulasingam died of "sharp force injuries to the neck" after he was attacked near Warden and McNicoll while walking home.

Police believe they know what the motive is, but would not release that information, saying it would come out at trial.

Tharmakulasingam's brother, however, told CTV's Jim Junkin that Tharmakulasingam had just had a fight with his longtime girlfriend before he was killed.

Abeyewardene was described as a close friend of the victim's former lover.