

Beat cop-slay rap, eyed in new one

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A former reputed Black Liberation Army terrorist who beat murder charges in the brutal assassination of two city cops more than 35 years ago is under investigation for killing a police sergeant in San Francisco, the Daily News has learned.

Francisco Torres was picked up by federal agents in Queens last week and forced to provide a court-ordered DNA sample, according to a source familiar with the probe into the three-decade-old West Coast killing.

Torres has apparently emerged as a suspect in the Aug. 29, 1971, slaying of Sgt. John Young, who was fatally wounded by shotgun blasts fired through an opening in a bulletproof partition during an assault by BLA members on a San Francisco police station.

The attack on the Inglewood District station came three months after NYPD Officers Waverly Jones and Joseph Piagentini were gunned down in cold blood outside the Colonial Park Houses in upper Manhattan.

Torres and his brother Gabriel were accused of being involved in the planning of the Jones and Piagentini ambush.

They were tried in 1974, along with fellow BLA thugs Herman Bell, Anthony Bottom and Albert Washington, but the trial ended with a hung jury.

After a second trial, a Manhattan judge dismissed the murder charges against the Torres brothers for insufficient evidence. The jury convicted Bell, Bottom and Washington, and they were sentenced to 25 years to life. Investigators are also seeking DNA samples from Bell and Bottom in connection with Young's murder, the source said.

Torres' lawyer Michael Warren declined to comment.

A lawyer for Gabriel Torres said his client testified last year before a San Francisco grand jury that is looking into Young's death, but he is not a suspect in the shooting.



Francisco Torres in 1971.

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