



# LEON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Walt McNeil, Sheriff

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[www.leoncountysos.com](http://www.leoncountysos.com)

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Media Contact:** Deputy Shade McMillian

**Date:** April 1, 2021

### **UPDATE LCSO Deputies Make Arrests in Death Investigation**

On March 31, LCSO Criminal Investigations Division continued an extensive investigation into the deceased person found at an Interstate 10 rest area and the case was classified as a homicide. Through investigative means, detectives developed 27-year-old Papa-Assane Rue as a suspect in the homicide and arrest warrants for the additional charge of first-degree murder were obtained and served to Rue inside the Leon County Detention Facility.

Detectives also made contact with Rue's girlfriend, 26-year-old Cassandra Hernandez. During the investigation, detectives learned that Hernandez spoke with Rue via text message and indicated she likely knew of the homicide and possibly participated in some capacity. Detectives discovered Hernandez had knowledge of Rue killing the victim and travelled with him on an attempt to dispose the victim's body. Hernandez eventually waited for Rue in a parking lot several miles away when Rue finally disposed of the body at the rest area.

Hernandez was arrested and transported to the Leon County Detention Facility.



**ARRESTED:** Cassandra Hernandez

**DOB:** 8/10/94

**CHARGES:** Accessory After the Fact – Capital Felony



**ARRESTED:** Papa-Assane Rue

**DOB:** 11/22/1993

**CHARGES:** Murder



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## LCSO Deputies Make Arrest in Death Investigation

On March 30, 2021, at around 2 P.M., Leon County Sheriff's Office received a call for service regarding a deceased person located in a wooded area behind an Interstate 10 rest area. Initially, Florida Highway Patrol troopers responded and found a body in the wooded area behind the rest area located at mile marker 194 on eastbound Interstate 10. Troopers stood by until deputies arrived, and the investigation was turned over to the Leon County Sheriff's Office. LCSO Violent Crimes and Crime Scene Units were called in to assist.

During the investigation, LCSO detectives located the body of a deceased person with multiple stab wounds to their torso. A wrecked vehicle owned by the deceased person was also located near the body. Further into the investigation, detectives learned a black male was seen driving, wrecking, and walking away from that vehicle before law enforcement arrived. Later, responding FHP troopers and LCSO deputies located a subject, 27-year-old Papa-Assane Rue, walking around Commonwealth Boulevard and Capital Circle Northwest. Rue was identified as the subject seen driving the deceased's vehicle. Rue was taken into custody and escorted to LCSO offices for an interview.

As a result of this preliminary investigation, Rue was arrested and transported to the Leon County Detention Facility.

This investigation is still open and active. In accordance with Marsy's Law, the deceased's information has been withheld by family request.

Sheriff Walt McNeil recognizes the effort and dedication from LCSO deputies and appreciates the assistance given by the Florida Highway Patrol and their continuing effort to support law enforcement in Leon County.



**ARRESTED:** Papa-Assane Rue

**DOB:** 11/22/1993

**CHARGES:** Destruction of Evidence

Grand Theft of Motor Vehicle

Petit Theft

Failure to Report Death



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