

# Eight California students arrested after alleged threats

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LOS ANGELES — Authorities arrested eight California students who reportedly made threats that included a plot to put a bomb on a teacher's desk and the creation of a hit list.

In Twentynine Palms, two 17-year-old boys were arrested at their homes Tuesday night on suspicion of conspiracy to commit murder and civil-rights violations.

At one of their homes, deputies found a rifle. At the other, there was a list of 16 students at Monument High that the pair planned to target, San Bernardino County sheriff's

spokesman Chip Patterson said. The teens' motives were unknown.

Police said they were tipped off by a classmate, who told her father she had overheard the boys discussing a hit list.

Also Tuesday, three junior high school students in San Bernardino County were arrested for threatening to place a bomb on a teacher's desk, authorities said. Classmates at Woodcrest Junior High alerted the principal.

Two 12-year-olds and a 13-year-old talked about the plot last week after one of the boys had a disagreement with a teacher, Ontario detective Mike Macias said. But no bomb-

making materials were found at their homes.

Police said the boys confessed during questioning.

In two other incidents, two teens were arrested at schools in Perris.

At Perris High, school guards found a 4-inch knife in the backpack of Luis Benavides, 18, and he was arrested for investigation of possession of a weapon. Deputies found two rifles and ammunition at his home.

"He made the comment that he needed help because he felt like killing somebody," said sheriff's spokesman Sgt. Mark Lohman. "Well, the teacher, in light of everything that's going

on, took this very seriously."

In the second arrest, a woman was enrolling her son at the Perris Community Day School for troubled youths when, according to a sheriff's report, the 14-year-old told an administrator: "If you make me come here, I'll bring a gun and shoot the place up." The boy was taken to a juvenile jail.

And at Wheatland High, north of Sacramento, a boy was detained after he reportedly threatened to bring a gun to school and kill people. He was released after authorities determined he did not have access to guns.

Outside California, an 18-year-old was charged with as-

sault Tuesday for allegedly threatening a school administrator via e-mail. Sara Elizabeth Turner, who was apparently angry over a graduation delay, was accused of telling the school board president in a Feb. 11 letter: "I will put you in so much pain that you will wish you were dead."

In Camden, N.J., a 15-year-old honor student was arrested for reportedly threatening to shoot members of a wood shop class. Police said the boy, whose identity was not disclosed, may have been angry about comments made about his late father. No weapons were found at his home.