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Chadrad Communications, Inc.
226 Bordeaux St - Chadron, NE 69337
308-432-5545 fax 308-432-5601
E-mail: kcsr@chadrad.com

(SD)-Federal Charges Now Facing Man Arrested In Chadron For Crawford Rape

By: John Axtell Posted at: 08/02/2019 11:13 PM

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) - The man arrested in Chadron last month for allegedly tying up and raping a missing Rapid City woman at a Crawford motel has been indicted along with his brother on federal kidnapping charges for abducting her.

Jesse Sierra remains in custody in Nebraska with a warrant issued to transfer him to the Pennington County Jail in Rapid City, where his brother Dustin is already in custody.

Esther Wolfe was reported missing by family members on July 14th, then was left a week later at the Chadron Community Hospital emergency room by Jesse Sierra. She told hospital staff she'd been attacked by Sierra in Crawford, and he was arrested in Chadron later that day.

Federal court documents in the criminal complaint filed Tuesday say that during the week that Wolfe was missing, she was being held against her will by the Sierra brothers on the Pine Ridge Reservations.

Rapid City police interviewed Wolfe's family after her disappearance and they said she'd been afraid of Sierra for some time because he was scheduled to be released from jail in Colorado.

Court documents say Sierra found Wolfe at the Rapid City hotel where she worked and repeatedly urged her to come with him, then was joined by his brother in taking Wolfe against her will to Oglala on the reservation.

She told investigators that she was assaulted multiple times by Jesse Sierra, beaten to the point of unconsciousness, sexually assaulted, and tied up with Christmas lights.

The criminal complaint says Wolfe told investigators she'd left several clues for them during her ordeal including her shoe and her niece's cell phone. FBI agents searched the Oglala location and found evidence corroborating her statement.