

Triple slaying suspect brought back to Waco

A fourth suspect in the July 1982 stabbing deaths of three teen-agers near Lake Waco was returned Tuesday to Waco from Corpus Christi, where he has been jailed on a robbery charge.

Anthony Melendez, 24, is the last of four suspects to be brought to Waco for arraignment on capital murder charges stemming from the deaths of Raylene Rice, Jill Montgomery and Kenneth Franks.

David Wayne Spence, 25, was transferred Monday from the Texas Department of Corrections' Eastham Unit in Lovelady, where he was serving a 90-year sentence for the aggravated sexual abuse of an 18-year-old Waco man.

Melendez, Spence, Melendez's brother, Gilbert Melendez, 28, and Muneer

Mohammed Deeb, 24, each are charged with three counts of capital murder.

Deeb remains in the McLennan County Jail under bonds totaling \$600,000. The three other defendants are expected to be arraigned Wednesday before 54th State District Judge George Allen.

Allen also is expected to appoint attorneys Wednesday for the suspects, a court spokesperson said. Texas law allows defendants in capital murder cases to have two court-appointed attorneys if they cannot afford representation.

District Attorney Vic Feazell said he expects the first defendant to go to trial in March. If convicted, each faces life imprisonment or death by injection.



Mark Webb Photo

Anthony Melendez was returned to Waco from Corpus Christi