



Maryland Troopers Capture Escaped Killer

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A convicted murderer serving 40 years at the Maryland Correctional Institution at Hagerstown, who escaped Jan 17, was captured yesterday afternoon by state troopers after a foot chase in the tiny community of Boonsboro, about six miles south of the prison, state police said. Fingerprints taken at the state police barracks at Hagerstown were confirmed through an FBI comparison and identified the man as Kandelario Garcia-Ramos, 23, convicted for the 2007 fatal stabbing of his boss at a Prince George's County tire firm, police said.

State police received a tip that a man fitting Garcia-Ramos' description was hanging around a convenience store at Route 66 and U.S. 40 in Boonsboro. Elena Russo, a state police spokeswoman, said Garcia-Ramos left the store and was walking on a driveway adjacent to it when he was confronted by a trooper. He then fled. That trooper and other police joined in a chase that covered nearly a mile before Ramos was arrested and taken to the barracks, where his identity was confirmed.

Garcia-Ramos escaped from the prison during breakfast between 5:30 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. Jan. 17 by climbing over two sets of razor wire fencing by using clothing to cover the razor wire and prevent his being cut. Upon the discovery of his escape, the facility, which houses 2,200 inmates, was locked down. "Outright escapes are extremely rare," said Mark A. Vernarelli, a spokesman for the state's Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. "They are almost unheard of. You will get a road crew walk-away, but a true over-the-fence escape is extremely rare."

Rick Binetti, a spokesman for the state's Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, said Garcia-Ramos will be transferred from the state police barracks and taken to the North Branch Correctional Institution at Cumberland, the state's most secure prison, where he will be held while the escape is being investigated.

He said the Washington County state's attorney's office is expected to seek escape charges against Garcia-Ramos at a later date.