Report of rape along jogging trail turns out to be false

By SALVADOR HERNANDEZ | Orange County Register
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A report about a rape along a jogging trail in an unincorporated part of Santa Ana was found to be false today after investigators interviewed the woman for the third time, authorities said.

Authorities with the Orange County Sheriff's Department were preparing to release a sketch Thursday of a man described by the woman to investigators. But during the third interview of the woman Thursday, investigators found that the report had been falsified, said Jim Amormino spokesman for the Sheriff's Department.

“She made it up,” he said.

The 20-year-old woman first came forward to investigators with the Sheriff's Department Monday, describing a rape that she said occurred on a trail along Esplanade Avenue, said Amormino.

The woman said she was forced into a black SUV by a man who drove her a short distance from the trail, then threw her on the ground and raped her. The woman also described details of the car, including a chocolate interior and a purple rosary.

Authorities said the woman also said that the man threatened to kill her and her family if she reported the crime to police.

But the story ended up being bogus, Amormino said.

Initially, the case bore some similarities to a rape that had occurred in Fullerton on April 20, and investigators had begun looking at a possible link before the two incidents, Amormino said.

“Right now, we don’t know why she did it,” Amormino said.

Contact the writer: shernandez@ocregister.com or 949-454-7361