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Evanston police have arrested a Southside man in connection with the kidnap and rape of two 16-year-old girls last week.

James Barksdale, 32, of 6900 S. Cranston ave., also is being questioned about the abduction of a Salt Lake City couple near the Baha'i Temple in Wilmette July 20 and the repeated rape of the woman.

Evanston Patrolman Gerry Kirkhin arrested Barksdale Monday night in the

Lincoln Street parking area at Northwestern University. Kirkhin said Barksdale and his car matched the description the girls gave police.

The girls said a man picked them up as they were hitchhiking, drove a short distance and then pulled a gun and told them to lie on the car floor. He locked one girl in the car trunk as he raped the other and released them near a truck stop in Joliet.