



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FEDERAL JURY CONVICTS EL PASO MAN OF ASSAULTING SECURITY OFFICER
AT THE PASO DEL NORTE BRIDGE RESULTING IN DEATH**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that a federal jury seated in El Paso convicted 29-year-old Pablo Aragon for assaulting a security officer causing serious bodily injury at the Paso Del Norte (PDN) bridge on New Year's day. As a result, Aragon faces between five and 99 years in federal prison and a fine of up to \$10,000.

In all, the jury convicted Aragon of two counts of assault causing serious bodily injury and one count of assault causing bodily injury. Following a one-day trial, the jury found that on January 1, 2008, Aragon initiated a confrontation with the security guard at the pedestrian toll booth at the PDN bridge in downtown El Paso. Evidence showed the defendant struck the security guard on the left side of his head near the eye causing a half-inch laceration. The guard struggled with the defendant to resist the attack. However, the defendant was able to break free, walk away, then return to issue four to five more blows to the officer. The defendant fled the scene and was subsequently apprehended by Border Patrol agents. The guard was taken to Thomason Hospital where he subsequently died. An autopsy performed by the El Paso County Medical Examiners Office concluded that the security officer died as a result of a heart attack brought about and caused by the assault.

Aragon is scheduled to be sentenced on 8:30am on August 25, 2008, before United States District Judge David Briones.

This case was investigated by the El Paso Violent Crimes Task Force made up of investigators from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Border Patrol and the El Paso Police Department. It is being prosecuted for the government by Assistant United States Attorneys William Lewis, Jr., and George Leal.

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