

June 17, 2008

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

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TRANSCRIBED AUDIO STATEMENT OF U.S. ATTORNEY JOHNNY SUTTON REGARDING SENTENCING OF FORMER BORDER PATROL AGENT ARTURO ARZATE, JR.

"This is Johnny Sutton, United States Attorney for the Western District of Texas. Today in federal court in El Paso, former United States Border Patrol agent Arturo Arzate, Jr. was sentenced to 70 years in federal prison for bribery and allowing cocaine through checkpoints without inspection. The men and women of the United States Border Patrol are unsung American heroes because everyday they put their lives on the line to protect us and to protect our country. When Agent Arzarte crossed the line and joined forces with the drug dealers, he betrayed us all. What he did is beyond reprehensible and today pays the price for his treachery."

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