



**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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**FOUR MEMBERS OF CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION ARRESTED IN
U.S. CUSTOMS IN-BOND SHIPMENT FRAUD CASE**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that in El Paso, four men have been arrested charged by indictment with conspiracy to smuggle goods into the United States under false pretenses.

The four defendants—Jose A. Dominguez, age 66, of El Paso; Richard Ortiz, Jr., age 44, of El Paso; Raul Guillermo Valdivia, age 41, of El Paso; and Jaime Guadalupe Camarillo, age 46, of El Paso—were arrested on Friday and are all charged with one count of conspiracy to enter goods by false statements, smuggling and attempting to smuggle goods and merchandise into the United States. Additionally, Ortiz, Jr., Valdivia, and Camarillo are each charged with three substantive counts of aiding and abetting entry of goods by false statements and three counts of aiding and abetting smuggling of goods into the United States.

The indictment, also charges a fifth defendant, Mark Alan Elias, age 38, of El Paso, with conspiracy and three substantive counts of aiding and abetting entry of goods by false statements and three counts of aiding and abetting smuggling of goods into the United States. Elias is currently in custody on unrelated charges.

The indictment alleges that beginning in 2003, the defendants conspired to divert to the U.S. economy numerous in-bond shipments of clothing from China which falsely claimed to be destined for Mexico. The intentionally diverted goods were delivered to U.S. vendors who originally ordered the goods while circumventing proper Customs clearance and the legal payment of duties for shipments legally entering the United States. Based upon Customs seizures of merchandise falsely placed in the Customs in-bond system for export to Mexico, authorities estimate that this organization attempted to smuggle over \$2.5 million worth of goods resulting in an estimated \$520,000 loss of Customs duties.

The indictment also seeks a monetary judgement against the defendants in the amount of \$963,720, representing the amount of proceeds derived from the defendant's alleged criminal activity. Upon conviction, each defendant faces up to five years in federal prison.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Investigations. Assistant United States Attorney William F. Lewis, Jr., is prosecuting this case on behalf of the Government.

An indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence of guilt. The defendants are presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

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