



**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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**EL PASO BORDER PATROL AGENT SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR  
CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT ALIEN SMUGGLING AND MONEY LAUNDERING**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced that U.S. Border Patrol agent Jesus Miguel Huizar was sentenced this morning to five years in federal prison for conspiracy to smuggle, transport and harbor aliens and conspiracy to commit money laundering.

At sentencing this morning, United States District Judge David Briones also ordered that Huizar forfeit over \$24,000 in U.S. currency as well as his El Paso residence located at 9072 Geranium which was used as a safe house for the aliens. Judge Briones also entered a money judgement against Huizar in the amount of \$500,000.00 - the proceeds from the illegal activities.

On July 9, 2008, Huizar plead guilty to the charges against him and in so doing, admitted that beginning in January 2005 through May 2008, he conspired to smuggle over 100 illegal aliens into the United States from Mexico. Specifically, Huizar was paid a portion of the smuggling fees, approximately \$350 per alien, to facilitate the transportation of undocumented aliens through the interior Border Patrol checkpoints in New Mexico.

Huizar's co-defendants—El Paso resident Rosa Isela Escajeda, age 46, and Chihuahua, Mexico residents Emeterio Sigala-Favela, age 37, and Luis Carlos Chacon-Rubio, age 32—have pled guilty and will be sentenced later this month. Jorge Jurado remains a fugitive. Each is charged in the alien smuggling conspiracy. Upon conviction, each faces up to ten years in federal prison.

“United States Border Patrol agents are a special group of men and women because they are willing to put their lives on the line every day to protect us and our families. They deserve our respect and our gratitude. However, when an agent violates the laws that he has sworn to uphold, he must be held accountable,” stated United States Attorney Johnny Sutton.

Special Agent in Charge James E. Smith, Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General stated, “Today’s sentencing demonstrates that the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General, our law enforcement partners and the United States Attorney’s Office stand committed to identifying and prosecuting to the full extent of the law those individuals who would tarnish their badges for money. The United States Border Patrol is commended for their support in this investigation and for their desire to keep corruption out of their ranks.”

This case was investigated by the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Investigations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Juanita Fielden is prosecuting this case on behalf of the Government.

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