



**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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ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT CHARGED WITH ASSAULTING DEPUTY SHERIFF

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that federal felony assault charges have been filed against Moises Saenz-Contreras, an illegal immigrant from Mexico, who assaulted an Ector County Deputy Sheriff Monday afternoon.

According to a criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court this morning, officers and employees of a local oilfield company became suspicious of the genuineness of a green card and a Social Security number that had been submitted to the company by an individual seeking employment. Company officials contacted agents with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE"), who preliminarily confirmed that the documents appeared fraudulent.

The applicant was scheduled to come to the company for an interview Monday afternoon, so ICE agents asked an Ector County Deputy Sheriff, working security for the company as an off-duty second job, to detain him when he arrived. When the deputy told the applicant he was being detained, a violent struggle ensued. After wrestling him to the ground twice and using pepper spray, the deputy was finally able to subdue the man. The deputy suffered abrasions and scratches on his arm that resulted in bleeding.

ICE agents who responded to the scene were later able to confirm the applicant's true identity as Saenz-Contreras, an illegal immigrant from Ojinaga, Mexico.

Saenz-Contreras faces up to eight years in federal prison if convicted on the assault charges, which can be brought in federal court because the deputy sheriff was assisting ICE agents in their duties. Agents continue to investigate aspects of the fraudulent documents used by Saenz-Contreras to apply for the job, and additional charges against him related to those documents may result. Saenz-Contreras remains in federal custody.

Assistant United States Attorney Kerry A. Fleck is prosecuting this case on behalf of the Government.

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