



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

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Shana Jones, Special Assistant  
Daryl Fields, Public Information Officer  
(210) 384-7440

July 31, 2008

**FEDERAL PRISON SENTENCES HANDED DOWN IN WACO CARJACKING/KIDNAPPING CASE**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced that in Waco this morning, three Mexican nationals were sentenced to federal prison terms for their roles in a carjacking/kidnapping incident on October 25, 2007.

United States Senior District Judge Walter S. Smith, Jr., sentenced 34-year-old Jesus Estrada to 24 years in federal prison, 32-year-old Robert Gallegos-Cruz to 15 years in federal prison and 25-year-old Rafael Padilla to 15 years in federal prison.

On April 16, 2008, Estrada pleaded guilty to one count each of carjacking and possession of a firearm during a crime of violence; Gallegos-Cruz, to one count of kidnapping. On May 29, 2008, Padilla pleaded guilty to one count of kidnapping.

According to court records, the victim was lured into a residence in Duncanville, Texas, where the defendants assaulted him with a baseball bat. At the time, Estrada was in possession of a M-11, .380 caliber machine gun, stamped with the logo "Cobray" and equipped with a "silencer." Estrada and Gallegos-Cruz subsequently, tied the victim up, took his car keys, rolled him up in a blanket, loaded the victim inside his own vehicle, then proceeded to drive to a storage facility in Waco. During the course of the carjacking, several calls were made to the victim's wife demanding \$1 million or they would kill her husband.

That evening, McLennan County Sheriff's deputies arrested Estrada and Gallegos-Cruz following a routine traffic stop. Further investigation revealed the location of the property where the victim was being held captive. In addition to rescuing the victim, authorities also arrested Padilla. The victim was taken to a hospital as he was experiencing kidney failure and near death.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, McLennan County Sheriff's Office. Assistant United States Attorney Greg Gloff prosecuted this case on behalf of the Government.

#####