



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

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**THREE JURY TRIALS RESULT IN THREE CONVICTIONS**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that last week in Del Rio, Texas, three defendants were found guilty, after jury trials, on charges of drug and illegal immigrant smuggling.

On Wednesday, March 19, 2008, defendant Omar Sato-Jimenez, an illegal alien, was found guilty of conspiracy to possess and possession of more than 50 kilograms of marijuana. At trial, the government showed that on June 11, 2007, the defendant was arrested for transporting approximately 95 kilograms of marijuana from Eagle Pass, Texas, to San Antonio, Texas. Subsequent to his arrest, additional investigation revealed that the Defendant had previously been deported from the United States following a 2005 conviction for possessing cocaine with the intent to distribute. This case was investigated by Task Force Officers from the Drug Enforcement Administration and Customs and Border Protection Border Patrol Prosecutions. It was prosecuted for the government by Assistant United States Attorney Jason Schall.

Also on Thursday, defendant Araceli Rodriquez-Garcia was convicted by a federal jury of importation and possession with intent to distribute more than 5 kilograms of cocaine. At trial, the government showed that on August 26, 2007, the defendant arrived at the Del Rio, Texas, Point of Entry and made a negative declaration. Upon further investigation at the secondary inspection, a secret compartment was discovered with trap doors underneath the seats, which was filled with approximately fifteen kilograms of cocaine. This case was investigated by Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents and was prosecuted for the government by Assistant United States Attorneys Benjamin Seal and Jeremy Sibert. Rodriquez-Garcia's sentencing is set for September 19, 2008.

Lastly, on Thursday, defendant Carlos Enrique Salinas was found guilty by a federal jury of conspiracy to transport and transportation of illegal aliens. At trial, the government showed that on the night of August 23, 2007, the defendant and a co-conspirator, Esteban Gomez, planned to transport a group of eight illegal aliens from Eagle Pass, Texas, to San Antonio. The Defendant and Gomez met at a stash house in Eagle Pass at approximately 11 p.m. The Defendant drove ahead of Gomez and the illegal aliens, acting as a scout to warn of the presence of Border Patrol. A Texas Department of Public Safety trooper performed a traffic stop on Gomez. Border Patrol assisted in the stop, and arrested the eight illegal aliens and Gomez. It was determined by law enforcement that the defendant Salinas was a co-conspirator in the smuggling operation and was arrested a few hours later traveling along the same route. This case was investigated by the U.S. Border Patrol, Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Texas Department of Public Safety. It was prosecuted for the government by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Benjamin Seal and Shawn Smith.

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