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## Diplomatic Security Assists with Sexual Predator Fugitive Capture

Patricio Pitchon, 35, was arrested at Houston's Bush Intercontinental Airport on November 15, 2002, 6 months after he fled the United States to avoid prosecution for two counts of aggravated sexual assault of a minor.

On the afternoon of November 14, the district attorney's office in Harris County, Texas, requested assistance from Diplomatic Security's Houston Field Office in securing Pitchon's return from Cancun, Mexico, to Houston, Texas. According to the DA's office, Pitchon had expressed interest in voluntarily returning to Texas to face charges. Time was of the essence to ensure he did not change his mind.

Pitchon was an Argentine citizen and U.S. resident alien. Due to the expense and time involved, the Harris County district attorney's office did not wish to initiate extradition proceedings. The legal

attaché in Mexico City had referred the DA's office to Diplomatic Security for assistance in this matter.

Within 2 hours of the call for assistance, Diplomatic Security special agents arranged for the issuance of an electronic airline ticket for a direct flight to Houston and established contact with Pitchon via the consular agent in Cancun to provide him with the travel information. Like clockwork, Pitchon arrived at Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston, where special agents welcomed him back to the United States with a custodial transfer directly to the district attorney's office.

In this case, cooperation between the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City, the U.S. Consulate in Cancun, the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, and the U.S. Customs Service worked together to bring this fugitive to justice. ⚙️

