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TEXAS MAN SENTENCED ON FEDERAL KIDNAPING CHARGES

*Defendant kidnaped victim and forced
victim into trunk of car*

Lafayette, Louisiana . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced that **DAGOBERTO SANCHEZ**, age 25, of Freeport, Texas, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Richard T. Haik in Lafayette for conspiracy to commit interstate kidnaping and possession of a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence.

SANCHEZ was sentenced to spend 17 years and 1 month in prison. Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

SANCHEZ was indicted in May 2007, along with his co-defendant, **MARANDA GATTE**, age 20, of Jennings, Louisiana. This indictment is the result of an investigation into an incident involving the kidnaping of a victim from a store parking lot in Jennings, Louisiana in April 2007. The victim was approached by GATTE, who said that she was pregnant and needed a ride home. When the victim agreed to give GATTE a ride, SANCHEZ also got in the car and they directed the victim to drive to an abandoned

house, claiming that was where they lived. After arriving there, SANCHEZ pulled out a gun and forced the victim to drive to a local park. Once they arrived at the park, SANCHEZ forced the victim into the trunk and drove the vehicle from Louisiana to the State of Texas. The victim's husband, who was taking care of their infant child at the time of the kidnaping, contacted law enforcement after being unable to contact the victim on her cell phone. SANCHEZ forced the victim from the trunk of the vehicle in Beaumont, Texas, leaving her in a ditch. She then went to a nearby residence and contacted law enforcement.

GATTE also pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit interstate kidnaping and is awaiting sentencing.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Lake Charles Resident Agency, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John Luke Walker.

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