



UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

*United States Attorney Donald W. Washington
Western District of Louisiana*

United States Courthouse • 300 Fannin Street, Suite 3201 • Shreveport, Louisiana 71101-3068 • (318) 676-3600
United States Courthouse • 800 Lafayette Street, Suite 2200 • Lafayette, Louisiana 70501-7206 • (337) 262-6618

For Immediate Release
November 13, 2008

Contact: Donald W. Washington (337-262-6618)
William J. Flanagan (318-676-3600)

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/law>

TEXAS DRUG DEALER SENTENCED IN FEDERAL COURT

Substantial Amount of Illegal Drugs Found During Stop for Safety Inspection

LAKE CHARLES, LA . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced that **ESTANISLADO AVALOS-LOPEZ**, age 37, was sentenced today in United States District Court for his role in drug trafficking across state lines. U. S. District Judge Patricia Minaldi sentenced AVALOS-LOPEZ to a term of 63 months in prison, to be followed by five years of supervised release.

AVALOS-LOPEZ was indicted in April 2007, on one count of possession with intent to distribute marijuana. He pleaded guilty in August 2008, to possession with intent to distribute 800 pounds of marijuana.

In May 2006, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”), Lake Charles, learned that two tractor rigs owned by Infinity Transport, en route from Texas to New York, were traveling east on I-10 and that one of the rigs, driven by AVALOS-LOPEZ, contained an unknown quantity of narcotics. While traveling on I-10 in Calcasieu Parish, AVALOS-LOPEZ’s truck was stopped for a safety inspection, and during the stop by the Motor Carrier Safety Inspection Unit, the Louisiana State Police found the 800 pounds of marijuana concealed in several large cardboard boxes contained in the scrap copper.

U.S. Attorney Washington stated: “Reducing the supply of illegal drugs remains a major law enforcement priority. We will continue to use every tool available to law enforcement to continue aggressive investigations and prosecutions of drug traffickers.”

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Stephanie A. Finley.

###