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ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT PLEADS GUILTY IN FEDERAL COURT

*Mexican National admits to multiple illegal re-entries into
and removals from the United States*

Lafayette, Louisiana . . .United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced that **ALVARA HERNANDEZ-GRAMAJO**, age 30, pleaded guilty today before United States District Judge Rebecca F. Doherty in U.S. District Court in Lafayette, Louisiana, for illegal reentry of a removed alien. Sentencing has been scheduled for February 5, 2009 at 12:00 p.m.

HERNANDEZ-GRAMAJO was indicted in November 2008 after being arrested by the Customs and Border agents from Lake Charles. The agents were conducting smuggling interdiction duties when they stopped the defendant's vehicle which was traveling eastbound on Interstate-10 near Lake Charles, Louisiana. The defendant admitted to multiple re-entries into and subsequent removals from the United States, that he is a citizen and national of Mexico and has no immigration documents allowing him to enter or work in the United States. It is illegal to re-enter the United States after being deported or removed without the consent of the U.S. Attorney General or the

Secretary of Homeland Security. HERNANDEZ-GRAMAJO did not apply for or receive consent to re-enter the United States.

HERNANDEZ-GRAMAJO faces a maximum penalty of not more than two years imprisonment, a fine of not more than \$250,000.00, or both, and a term of supervised release of not more than one year after release from confinement. Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

This case was investigated by Special Agent Michael Touchet of the Immigration & Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE), Lafayette Division. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel J. McCoy.

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