



*Office of the United States Attorney  
District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **SONORAN WOMAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR SMUGGLING 7-YEAR-OLD**

TUCSON, Ariz. – Tomasa Torres de Rodriguez, 48, of Nogales, Son., Mex., was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge David C. Bury to 15 months in federal prison. Torres de Rodriguez pleaded guilty on January 21, 2009, to conspiracy to transport an illegal alien for financial gain.

On September 18, 2008, Torres de Rodriguez attempted entry to the United States from Mexico via the pedestrian lane at the Nogales, Ariz., Port of Entry with a 7-year-old female undocumented alien. Torres de Rodriguez presented border crossing cards for herself and the girl and claimed the girl was related to her. The Customs and Border Protection Official became suspicious because the girl did not appear to be the child in the visa. Torres de Rodriguez admitted she did not know the girl and that she was to receive \$100 to smuggle the child into the United States and give her to an unknown person near a statue in Nogales, Ariz.

The smuggled girl was released to the custody of the Mexican Department of Family Services (the Mexican equivalent of U.S. Child Protective Services) and has been reunited with her family. Torres de Rodriguez, a Mexican citizen with a laser visa authorizing entry to the United States, is also pending removal proceedings from the U.S. as a result of this conviction.

The investigation in this case was conducted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Nogales. The prosecution was handled by Mary Sue Feldmeier, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson.

CASE NUMBER: CR 08-1279-TUC-DCB-(HCE)  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2009-114(Rodriguez)

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