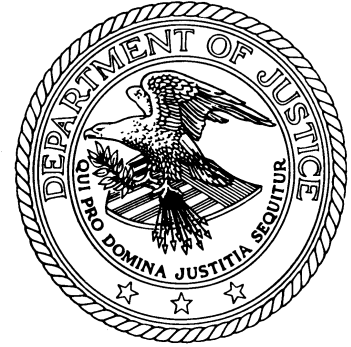


NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

San Diego, California

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For Immediate Release

ALIEN SMUGGLER KINGPIN RECEIVES LENGTHY SENTENCE AFTER CONVICTION AT TRIAL

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - May 19, 2008

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Emilio Reyes-Bosque, a.k.a. Emilio Varela, was sentenced today in federal court in San Diego by the Honorable Roger T. Benitez to serve 17½ years in custody based on his conviction of aiding an aggravated felon alien to enter the United States, conspiracy to smuggle illegal aliens, bringing illegal aliens into the United States, and harboring illegal aliens. Reyes was found guilty by a federal jury on February 20, 2008.

According to the lead prosecutor on the case, Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew G. Schopler, the evidence at trial established that Reyes was the kingpin of the Reyes Alien-Smuggling Organization, which smuggled hundreds of illegal aliens, including at least one aggravated felon, into the United States over the past several years. Reyes employed foot guides, load drivers, scouts, and so-called “caretakers” to guard his human cargo, conceal them from law enforcement, evade detection at Border Patrol checkpoints, and prevent the smuggled aliens from leaving his custody until payment had been received. In addition, Reyes owned

many of the load vehicles used by the organization and operated stash houses (or load houses), which were filled beyond their capacity with illegal aliens awaiting transfer to the payment locations.

The case first came to light on December 2, 2005, when three smuggled aliens (including a 55-year-old man and his daughter) escaped one of Reyes' load houses in Brawley, California, so they could seek medication for the 55-year-old father. After encountering United States Border Patrol agents in downtown Brawley, the smuggled aliens described the deplorable conditions at the load house and how they had escaped. Later that morning, Border Patrol agents entered the load house and freed 18 other illegal aliens, who were being guarded by a caretaker.

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt said, "This is one of the longest sentences ever imposed in an alien smuggling case in the history of San Diego. Without a doubt, the punishment here fits the crime. Reyes-Bosque was the kingpin of an alien smuggling organization engaged in widescale human trafficking by smuggling hundreds of illegal aliens for profit."

DEFENDANT

Criminal Case No. 05-CR-2239-BEN

Emilio Reyes-Bosque, a.k.a. Emilio Varela

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Title 8, United States Code, Sections 1324(a)(1)(A)(i), (ii), (iii) and (v)(I) - Conspiracy to Bring in, Transport and Harbor Illegal Aliens

Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324(a)(2)(B)(ii), and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2 - Bringing in Illegal Aliens for Financial Gain

Title 8, United States Code, Sections 1324(a)(1)(A)(iii) and (v)(II) - Harboring Illegal Aliens

Title 8, United States Code, Section 1327 - Aiding an Aggravated Felon Alien to Enter the United States

AGENCY

United States Border Patrol