

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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## ***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA***

***San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
Karen P. Hewitt***

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***For Immediate Release***

### **FOUR FALLBROOK FAMILY MEMBERS CHARGED WITH ALIEN SMUGGLING**

**NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY** - September 8, 2008

San Diego, CA - United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Maria Del Carmen Alvarez, Indalecio Alvarez-Montoya, Juan Alvarez, and Patricia Marquez were arraigned today in federal court in San Diego before Magistrate Judge Louisa S. Porter on an indictment handed up by a federal grand jury on August 29, 2008 and unsealed today. The indictment charges the defendants with conspiracy to bring illegal aliens into the United States for financial gain, 15 counts of bringing in illegal aliens for financial gain, 15 counts of transporting illegal aliens, 14 counts of harboring illegal aliens, conspiracy to launder money, three counts of filing false tax returns. The indictment also seeks criminal forfeiture of the illicit proceeds involved in the alien smuggling and money laundering offenses.

According to the indictment, Maria Del Carmen Alvarez, Indalecio Alvarez-Montoya, Juan Alvarez, Patricia Marquez and others were involved in an alien smuggling organization to bring illegal aliens into the United States from Mexico for personal financial gain since at least 1996. The defendants made arrangements to have the illegal aliens brought to the United States from Mexico through the San Ysidro Port of Entry by

having the aliens present false immigration documents (that had either been altered or belonged to another individual), or by hiding the aliens in the trunk of a vehicle. The indictment further alleges that defendants made arrangements to have the illegal aliens transported to 354 Rancho Camino Road in Fallbrook, California, where defendants Maria Del Carmen Alvarez, Indalecio Alvarez-Montoya, and Juan Alvarez resided. Defendants sheltered the illegal aliens in a two-bedroom guesthouse at the Fallbrook property before the sponsors wired money to various members of the alien smuggling organization to pay the alien smuggling fees. The indictment also alleges that defendants instructed the sponsors of the illegal aliens to break down the smuggling fees and send wire transfers in small amounts to multiple recipients. Defendants conspired to make financial transactions with the illegal proceeds to promote the alien smuggling organization. The indictment charges that Maria Del Carmen Alvarez and Indalecio Alvarez-Montoya filed materially false U.S. Individual Income Tax Returns (Forms 1040) for tax years 2003, 2004, and 2005.

United States Attorney Hewitt said, "Federal law enforcement in San Diego will continue to dismantle alien smuggling organizations that profit from human trafficking and engage in money laundering offenses and tax crimes. Our multi-faceted attacks on such crimes contribute toward the dissolution of alien smuggling networks in this region."

"This human smuggling case underscores the key to dismantling greed-driven smuggling organizations is by attacking their pocketbooks," said Miguel Unzueta, Special Agent in Charge for ICE investigations in San Diego. "After a lengthy criminal investigation of one of the area's most established smuggling organizations, ICE has succeeded in dismantling the entire network, including the financial scheme they relied on to make their illicit profits."

"Today's announced indictment and arrests of individuals involved in one of Southern California's long-standing alien smuggling organizations shows that border corruption, money laundering, and tax crimes will not be tolerated," said Debra D. King, Special Agent in Charge, Los Angeles Field Office. "IRS Special Agents will continue to use their financial expertise and be part of a joint federal law enforcement team that works toward the eradication of corruption at our border."

United States Attorney Hewitt praised the investigative efforts of the San Diego Field Office of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Criminal Investigations Division of the Internal Revenue Service. The defendants are next scheduled to be in court on October 20, 2008 at 2:00 p.m., before United States District Court Judge Marilyn L. Huff.

**DEFENDANTS**

**Case Number 08cr2973-H**

Maria Del Carmen Alvarez  
aka Maria del Carmen Hernandez-Ramirez, Maria del Carmen Hernandez-Alvarez,  
Maria Carmen Alvarez, Dona Carmen, Carmen, and Carmela  
Indalecio Alvarez-Montoya  
Juan Alvarez  
Patricia Marquez

**SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

Conspiracy To Bring In Illegal Aliens For Financial Gain, To Transport Illegal Aliens, and To Harbor Illegal Aliens – Title 18, United States Code, Section 371

Maximum penalties: 5 years in custody and fine of greater of \$250,000

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

Maximum penalties: 15 years in custody and a fine of \$250,000

Transporting Illegal Aliens – Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii)

Maximum penalties: 10 years in custody and a fine of \$250,000

Harboring illegal aliens – Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324(a)(1)(A)(iii)

Maximum penalties: 10 years in custody and a fine of \$250,000

Conspiracy To Launder Money – Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(h)

Maximum penalties: 20 years in custody and fine of greater of \$500,000 or double the amount of the funds involved in the transactions

Filing False Returns – Title 26, United States Code, Section 7206(1)

Maximum penalties: 3 years in custody and a fine of \$100,000 together with costs of prosecution

Criminal Forfeiture – Title 18, United States Code, Sections 982(a)(1) and (a)(6)

Maximum penalty: Forfeiture of proceeds

**INVESTIGATING AGENCIES**

United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division

**An indictment itself is not evidence that the defendants committed the crimes charged. The defendants are presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.**