

NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney
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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - February 4, 2009

San Diego, CA - United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Efren Escutia-De Jesus was sentenced today in United States District Court in San Diego by the Honorable Roger T. Benitez to serve 78 months in custody for bringing in illegal aliens, resulting in death. The sentence was imposed pursuant to a plea agreement, through which Escutia-De Jesus agreed to plead guilty to Counts 1 and 3 of the indictment, which was handed up by a federal grand jury on September 5, 2007.

According to court documents, Escutia-De Jesus was indicted on charges relating to his transportation of six undocumented persons in a Toyota Camry on August 2, 2007. On that date, Escutia-De Jesus lost control of the Camry while driving in near Tecate, California, causing the vehicle to roll over and resulting in the death of one of the vehicle's passengers.

The case was investigated by agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

DEFENDANT

Case Number: 07CR2449-BEN

EFREN ESCUTIA-DE JESUS

SUMMARY OF CHARGE

Count 1: Title 8, United States Code, Sections 1324(a)(1)(A)(i), (v)(II), and (a)(1)(B)(iv) (Aiding and abetting bringing in illegal aliens resulting in death)

Count 3: Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324(a)(2)(B)(ii), (v)(II), and 18 U.S.C. § 2 (Bringing in an illegal aliens for financial gain)

AGENCIES

Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Department of Homeland Security, United States Border Patrol