

NEWS RELEASE



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San Diego, California***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - April 6, 2009

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Odilon Cira-Ramirez was sentenced today in U.S. District Court in San Diego by the Honorable William Q. Hayes to serve 63 months in federal prison, followed by three years of supervised release after Cira-Ramirez' conviction for his role in the smuggling of undocumented aliens, which resulted in two deaths. Cira-Ramirez pled guilty in November 2008, to two counts of Bringing in Illegal Aliens Resulting in Death and one count of Bringing in Illegal Aliens for Financial Gain.

As part of his guilty plea before the Court, Cira-Ramirez admitted that he guided a group of three undocumented aliens into the United States near Tecate, California, walking in extreme heat with little water on July 7, 2008. During the course of the smuggling venture, two of the three undocumented aliens died from the effects of exposure to heat.

DEFENDANT

Criminal Case Number: 08CR2429-WQH

Odilon Cira-Ramirez

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324(a)(1)(A)(I) and (a)(1)(B)(iv) - Bringing in Illegal Aliens Resulting in Death

Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324(a)(2)(B)(ii) and 18 U.S.C. § 2 — Bringing in Illegal Aliens for Financial Gain.

AGENCY

U.S. Border Patrol