

NEWS RELEASE



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

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

For Further Information, Contact: Assistant U. S. Attorney Christopher P. Tenorio (619) 557-7843

For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - April 8, 2009

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced today that a federal grand jury sitting in San Diego handed up an eleven-count superseding indictment charging Adrian Zitlalpopoca-Hernandez, Eduardo Aguila-Tecuapahco, and Carlos Tzompantzi-Serrano with charges relating to the transportation and harboring of aliens for prostitution. Zitlalpopoca was charged with two counts of Sex Trafficking by Force, Fraud or Coercion; two counts of Persuasion or Coercion to Travel to Engage in Prostitution; two counts of Harboring Aliens for Purposes of Prostitution; and two counts of Bringing Illegal Aliens into the United States for Financial Gain. Zitlalpopoca had previously been charged with two counts of Harboring Illegal Aliens, and one count of Deported Alien Found in the United States. Aguila and Tzompantzi are also each charged with one count of Harboring Aliens for Purposes of Prostitution, and one count of Harboring Illegal Aliens.

The charges are based on activity between approximately April 1, 2008 and November 20, 2008, during which two women were allegedly harbored at residences in the Vista area for purposes of prostitution.

Zitlalpopoca is further charged with trafficking the women with the knowledge that force, fraud, or coercion would be used to cause the women to engage in commercial sex acts.

This case is the product of an investigation by agents of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Human Trafficking Unit.

The defendants are scheduled to be arraigned tomorrow on the superseding indictment at 10:00 a.m., before Magistrate Judge Louisa S. Porter.

DEFENDANTS

Case Number: 08CR4304-BEN

Adrian Zitlalpopoca-Hernandez
(aka Martin Tecuapacho-Aguila) (1)

Eduardo Aguila-Tecuapacho (2)

Carlos Tzompantzi-Serrano (3)

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Counts 1, 2 | Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1591, 2 (sex trafficking by force, fraud, or coercion)
Defendant: 1
Minimum penalty: 15 years of custody
Maximum penalty: life in custody; \$250,000 Fine |
| Counts 3, 4 | Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2422, 2 (persuasion or coercion to travel to engage in prostitution)
Defendant: 1
Maximum penalty: 20 years of custody; \$250,000 Fine |
| Counts 5, 6 | Title 8, United States Code, Section 1328, and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2 (harboring aliens for prostitution)
All Defendants (Count 5); Defendant 1 (Count 6)
Maximum penalty: 10 years of custody; \$250,000 Fine |
| Counts 7, 8 | Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324(a)(2)(B)(ii), and Title 18, United States Code, Section 2 (bringing illegal aliens into the U.S. for financial gain)
Defendant: 1
Minimum penalty: Three years of custody
Maximum penalty: 10 years of custody; \$250,000 Fine |

Counts 9, 10 Title 8, United States Code, Sections 1324(a)(1)(A)(iii), and (v)(II) (harboring illegal aliens)
All Defendants (Count 9)
Defendant: 1 (Count 10)
Maximum penalty: 10 years of custody; \$250,000 Fine

Count 11 Title 8, United States Code, Section 1326(a) (deported alien found in the United States)
Defendant: 1
Maximum penalty: Two years of custody; \$250,000 Fine

AGENCIES

Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Human Trafficking Unit

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.