



U.S. Department of Justice

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PRESS RELEASE

**MEXICAN CITIZEN INDICTED FOR
TRANSPORTING ILLEGAL ALIENS**

Colm F. Connolly, United States Attorney for the District of Delaware, and John Kelleghan, Special Agent in Charge, Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE"), Philadelphia Field Office, announced today that Jesus Salinas-Escamilla, age 22, a citizen of Mexico, was indicted on Thursday, December 14, 2006, by the Grand Jury for the District of Delaware. The Indictment charges Salinas-Escamilla with one count of transporting illegal aliens for the purpose of commercial advantage and private financial gain, in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324. The maximum penalty for the offense is ten years in jail, a fine of up to \$250,000, three years of supervised release, and a \$100 special assessment. The Indictment follows a criminal complaint filed against Salinas-Escamilla on Tuesday, December 5, 2006. In that complaint, an ICE special agent alleged that Salinas-Escamilla planned to transport in a pickup truck from Texas to New Jersey twelve individuals whom he knew to be illegal aliens. On December 4, 2006, the truck was stopped for speeding on I-95 by a Delaware State Police Officer. After a preliminary hearing and bail hearing on Friday, December 8, 2006, Magistrate Judge Mary Pat Thyngne detained Salinas-Escamilla pending trial.

U.S. Attorney Connolly stated, that "Commercial transportation of illegal aliens is a serious crime. Traffickers of illegal aliens should expect to be prosecuted and detained without bail pending trial." Resident Agent in Charge of the Wilmington Office of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, William Lowder said, "RAC Wilmington is committed to enforcing these types of smuggling offenses and working together with local law enforcement agencies to stem these types of serious trafficking offenses."

This case was investigated by ICE and the Delaware State Police. Assistant United States Attorney Robert F. Kravetz is prosecuting the case.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

For further information, contact United States Attorney Colm F. Connolly.

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