



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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For Information Contact Public Affairs
SANDY RAYNOR
Telephone: (602) 514-7625

MARIJUANA SMUGGLER SENTENCED TO 5 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON

PHOENIX – Jose Miguel Alvarez-Bautista, 23 , of Mecca, Calif., was sentenced to five years in federal prison by U.S. District Judge Stephen M. McNamee on March 24, 2008. A federal jury convicted Alvarez-Bautista on December 20, 2007 for conspiracy to import 100 kilograms or more of marijuana and importing 100 kilograms or more of marijuana from Mexico into the U.S.

Alvarez-Bautista was arrested at the San Luis Port of Entry in San Luis, Ariz. after inspectors at the port discovered that he and his co-defendant, Rene Rodriguez, had over 100 kilograms of marijuana hidden in a trailer they were pulling. The inspectors used a mobile x-ray machine to inspect the trailer and discovered a non-factory compartment at the front of the trailer. Concealed within the compartment was approximately 483 kilograms (1063 pounds) of marijuana with an approximate street value of \$425,000.

The investigation in this case was conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The prosecution of the case was handled by Assistants U.S. Attorneys Fred Cocio and Timothy Andrews, District of Arizona, Yuma, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-07-826-PHX-SMM
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