



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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For Information Contact Public Affairs  
SANDY RAYNOR  
Telephone: (602) 514-7625  
Cell: (602) 525-2681

## **DOUGLAS WOMAN CHARGED FOR MARIJUANA SMUGGLING ATTEMPT**

*Attempt made while her sister and seven of their children were in her vehicle crossing the border*

TUCSON, Ariz.- Monica Aguirre Martinez, 33, of Douglas, Ariz., was arrested and charged with possession with intent to distribute marijuana. At the time of Martinez' arrest, her sister and seven of their children were present in the car where the marijuana was found by U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials. Martinez made her initial appearance in Tucson federal court today. She is set for a preliminary hearing on Wednesday, May 14, 2008.

On Sunday, May 11, 2008, Martinez, a United States citizen, applied for admission into the U.S. through the Port of Entry, Douglas, Ariz. She was the owner and driver of a 1999 Ford Expedition and was accompanied by her sister and seven of their children, ages two to 14. Officers from U.S. Customs and Border Protection discovered 9.66 kilograms (approximately 21 lbs.) of marijuana concealed in a compartment under the center console. Martinez admitted she was to be paid \$1,000 to smuggle the marijuana into the U.S.

A conviction for possession with intent to distribute less than 50 kilograms of marijuana carries a maximum penalty of five years in federal prison, a \$250,000 fine or both. In determining an actual sentence, the judge will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

A criminal complaint is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation in this case was conducted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Douglas, and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The prosecution is being handled by Anne E. Mosher, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson.

CASE NUMBER: 086158M  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2008-115(Martinez)

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