



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, June 13, 2008

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

MEXICAN CITIZEN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR SMUGGLING 3-YEAR-OLD GIRL

TUCSON, Ariz. – Cruz Aide Garcia-Enriquez, 32, of Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico., was sentenced here today by U.S. District Judge David C. Bury to 15 months in federal prison. She pleaded guilty on April 8, 2008 to conspiracy to transport an illegal alien for financial gain. Garcia-Enriquez, a Mexican citizen with a laser visa authorizing entry to the United States, is also pending removal proceedings from the U.S. as a result of this conviction.

Garcia-Enriquez admitted that on November 18, 2007, she attempted entry to the United States from Mexico via the pedestrian lane at the Port of Entry in Nogales, Ariz. with a 3-year-old female undocumented alien. Garcia-Enriquez told the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) official that the girl was her niece and presented her own niece's Arizona birth certificate. The CBP official became suspicious because Garcia-Enriquez looked nervous and thought that the child did not appear to be her niece.

Garcia-Enriquez admitted that she had just met the little girl and that she had been instructed to cross the girl and take her to a store in Douglas, Ariz. At the store a man would recognize her, pay her \$200 and take the girl. She thought crossing the girl would be easy, so she agreed to do it and obtained her niece's birth certificate to aid in the smuggling attempt.

The smuggled child was turned over to the custody of the Mexican Department of Family Services (the Mexican equivalent of U.S. Child Protective Services) and has been reunited with her family.

The investigation in this case was conducted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Nogales. The prosecution was handled by Mary Sue Feldmeier, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson.

CASE NUMBER: CR-07-2046-001-TUC-DCB-(JM)
RELEASE NUMBER: 2008-151(Garcia-Enriquez)

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