



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

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MEXICAN CITIZEN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR SMUGGLING 2-YEAR-OLD BOY

TUCSON, Ariz. – Nancy Rocio Jurado-Lopez, 26, of Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico, was sentenced here yesterday by U.S. District Chief Judge John M. Roll to 15 months in federal prison. Jurado-Lopez pleaded guilty on April 8, 2008 to conspiracy to transport an illegal alien for financial gain. Jurado-Lopez, 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.

Jurado-Lopez admitted that on February 16, 2008, she attempted to enter the U.S. from Mexico via the pedestrian lane at the Port of Entry in Douglas, Ariz. with a 2-year-old male undocumented alien. Jurado-Lopez also had her 8-year-old son with her at the time and presented her own son's valid laser visa for entry. Jurado-Lopez also presented her other son's valid laser visa on behalf of the 2-year-old boy. The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) official became suspicious and referred them to secondary inspection for questioning. During questioning by CBP, Jurado-Lopez's 8-year-old son falsely told an inspector that he was traveling with his mother and brother. He then later stated that the boy was his cousin before finally admitting he did not know the boy.

Jurado-Lopez admitted that a woman she only knew as "Chela" called her the day before and offered her \$300 to take the boy into the U.S. Once in Douglas, Jurado-Lopez was to meet "Chela" and turn the boy over to her. She stated that she agreed to commit the offense because she needed the money.

During the hearing Chief Judge Roll commented that this was his 60th child smuggling case and that such cases are a very big problem that are particularly acute in Tucson and along the border.

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 his family. The investigation in this case was conducted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Nogales. The prosecution was handled by Raquel Arellano, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson.

CASE NUMBER: CR-08-00291-001-TUC-JMR-(JCG)
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