



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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District of Arizona*

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MEXICAN CITIZEN SENTENCED FOR SMUGGLING ATTEMPT OF SIX UNDOCUMENTED ALIEN MINORS

TUCSON – Carlota Quijada-Quihuis, 48, of Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, was sentenced here Thursday to 18 months in prison by U.S. District Judge Raner C. Collins for her role in a conspiracy to smuggle six minor children into the United States. Quijada-Quihuis pleaded guilty on May 1, 2008 to Conspiracy to Transport an Illegal Alien for Profit.

On April 9, 2008, Quijada-Quihuis applied for admission into the U.S. via the pedestrian Port of Entry in Nogales, Ariz. She was accompanied by her own daughter and six children all ranging in ages from 6 to 11 years of age. Quijada-Quihuis presented border crossing card for herself while the six children presented border crossing cards on their behalf. Quijada-Quihuis told an inspector that she was taking all the kids to a birthday party at the Peter Piper Pizza restaurant in Nogales, Arizona. During questioning, Quijada-Quihuis admitted she was hired by a woman in Mexico to cross all six children into the United States and take them to a restaurant in Nogales, Arizona. She further admitted that she was fully aware that the documents the children presented did not belong to them. She stated that she was going to be paid \$1,200 for her services. All six children were identified as Mexican citizens present in the United States illegally. All six children were turned over to the Mexican Consulates Office for return to Mexico.

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-08-00518-TUC-RCC
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