



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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District of Arizona*

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CHILD SMUGGLER OF 8 YEAR OLD BOY SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR 15 MONTHS

TUCSON – Cruz Angelica Marrufo-Perez, 22, of Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, was sentenced here today to 15 months in prison by U.S. District Court Judge Frank R. Zapata. Marrufo-Perez pleaded guilty on June 4, 2008, to Conspiracy to Transport an Illegal Alien for Profit.

Marrufo-Perez attempted to enter the United States on April 14, 2008, at the Nogales, Ariz. Port of Entry accompanied by an eight-year-old boy. Marrufo-Perez told the United States Customs and Border Protection Officer that the boy was her nephew and presented another child's legitimate laser visa on his behalf to facilitate the illegal entry. The Officer became suspicious and referred them for further inspection. During questioning, Marrufo-Perez admitted that she had made arrangements with a woman in Mexico to smuggle the boy into the United States. She was to take him to the Food City store in Nogales, Arizona, and then contact the woman on the telephone for further instructions regarding to whom she was to deliver the boy. Marrufo-Perez stated that she was to be paid \$50 to smuggle the boy. She did not know the boy's name.

On May 14, 2008 Marrufo-Perez was charged in federal court in Tucson, with Conspiracy to Transport an Illegal Alien for Financial Gain and other federal alien smuggling charges. The conspiracy offense is punishable by imprisonment for a term of five years or more.

The smuggled child was turned over to the custody of the Mexican Consulate who then turned him over to the Mexican Department of Family Services (the Mexican equivalent of U.S. Child Protective Services) to be reunited with his family.

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

CASE NUMBER: CR-08-0630-TUC-FRZ
RELEASE NUMBER: 2008-206(Marrufo-Perez)

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