



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CHILD SMUGGLER OF 18-MONTH-OLD GIRL SENTENCED TO 15 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON

TUCSON, Ariz. – Mario Saucedo-Coronado, 18, of Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, was sentenced here today to 15 months in prison by U.S. District Court Judge Frank R. Zapata. Saucedo-Coronado pleaded guilty on March 25, 2008, to Conspiracy to Transport an Illegal Alien for Profit after he attempted to smuggle a toddler into the United States.

Saucedo-Coronado attempted to enter the U.S. on January 19, 2008, at the Nogales, Ariz. Port of Entry with an 18-month-old girl whom he picked up from someone who was holding her at the exit turnstile. Saucedo-Coronado told the U.S. Customs and Border Protection official that he did not know the child, but that a friend of his had offered him \$100 to take her to the McDonald's Restaurant in Nogales, Ariz., where another man would take the child from him. Saucedo-Coronado was going to be paid once he returned to Mexico.

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

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

CASE NUMBER: CR-08-00177-TUC-FRZ
RELEASE NUMBER: 2008-208(Saucedo-Coronado)

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