



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CHILD SMUGGLER OF 11-MONTH-OLD BOY SENTENCED TO 21 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON

TUCSON, Ariz. – Jose Adan Lopez-Perez, 35, of Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, was sentenced here today to 21 months in prison by U.S. District Court Chief Judge John M. Roll. Lopez-Perez pleaded guilty on May 28, 2008, to Conspiracy to Transport an Illegal Alien for Profit after he attempted to smuggle a toddler into the United States.

Lopez-Perez attempted to enter the U.S. on March 10, 2008, at the Nogales, Ariz. Port of Entry with an 11-month-old boy whom he claimed was his son. Lopez-Perez told the U.S. Customs and Border Protection official that he did not know the child, but that he would be paid \$100 to take the child to a store in downtown Nogales, Ariz. Lopez-Perez stated that he met an unknown woman near a church in Nogales, Sonora, and was asked if he would take the child into the U.S. where a woman would pick up the child and pay Lopez-Perez for his services. Lopez-Perez admitted that he did not know the child and that he had used his own son's laser visa to facilitate the crossing.

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. The prosecution was handled by Raquel Arellano, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson.

CASE NUMBER: CR-08-00457-TUC-JMR
RELEASE NUMBER: 2008-211(Lopez-Perez)

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