



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ANOTHER CHILD SMUGGLER SENTENCED TO 15 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON

TUCSON, Ariz. – Yadira Santillanes-Aguilar, 36, of Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, was sentenced here today to 15 months in prison by U.S. District Court Judge Frank R. Zapata. Santillanes-Aguilar pleaded guilty on June 17, 2008, to Conspiracy to Transport an Illegal Alien for Profit after she attempted to smuggle a 1-year-old boy into the United States for a \$50 fee.

Santillanes-Aguilar attempted to enter the United States on April 5, 2008, at the Nogales, Ariz. Port of Entry with a 1-year-old boy whom she claimed was her child and for whom she presented a laser visa. Santillanes-Aguilar told U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials that her neighbor in Mexico hired her to smuggle the child from Mexico into the U.S. The neighbor said that the child was a relative and that the child's mother would be waiting at a department store in Nogales, Ariz., to take the child.

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-08-0552-TUC-FRZ
RELEASE NUMBER: 2008-217(Santillanes-Aguilar)

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