



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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For Information Contact Public Affairs
SANDY RAYNOR
Telephone: (602) 514-7625

CHILD SMUGGLER OF 1-YEAR-OLD BOY SENTENCED TO 15 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON

TUCSON, Ariz. – Jose Alfredo Ramos-Pineda, 21, of Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, was sentenced on Friday, September 12, 2008 to 15 months in prison by U.S. District Court Judge Cindy Jorgenson. Ramos-Pineda pleaded guilty on July 2, 2008, to Conspiracy to Transport an Illegal Alien for Profit after he attempted to smuggle a toddler into the United States.

Ramos-Pineda attempted to enter the U.S. on April 12, 2008, at the Nogales, Ariz. Port of Entry with a 1-year-old boy whom he claimed was his little brother. Ramos-Pineda eventually admitted to a U.S. Customs and Border Protection official that he did not know the child, but that he would be paid \$150 to take the child to a store in downtown Nogales, Ariz. Ramos-Pineda stated that he was recruited by someone he knows to pick up the child and taken him to Nogales, where a woman in a red vehicle would take the boy from him. Ramos-Pineda admitted that he did not know the child and that he had been given another child's laser visa by the smuggler to use 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-08-0592-TUC-JMR
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