



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Monday, September 15, 2008

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District of Arizona*

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## **ANOTHER CHILD SMUGGLER SENTENCED TO 15 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR SMUGGLING 6-YEAR-OLD**

TUCSON, Ariz. – Bertha Alicia Silva-Manriquez, 47, of Nogales, Son., Mex., was sentenced here today by U.S. District Judge Raner C. Collins to 15 months in federal prison. Silva-Manriquez pleaded guilty on July 2, 2008, to conspiracy to transport an illegal alien for financial gain.

Silva-Manriquez admitted that on April 14, 2008, she attempted entry to the United States from Mexico via the pedestrian lane at the DeConcini Port of Entry in Nogales, Ariz. with a 6-year-old male undocumented alien. Silva-Manriquez presented border crossing cards for herself and the child and claimed the boy was her grandson.

A U.S. Customs and Border Protection official became suspicious because the boy did not appear to be the child in the visa. Silva-Manriquez admitted she did not know the boy and that she had been paid \$50 by a woman she knew only as “Martha” to smuggle the child into the U.S. and turn him over to an unknown woman at a fast food restaurant in Nogales, Ariz. She knew the document she presented for the boy did not belong to him.

Silva-Manriquez, a Mexican citizen with a laser visa authorizing entry to the United States, is also pending removal proceedings from the U.S. as a result of this conviction.

The investigation in this case was conducted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Nogales, Ariz. The prosecution was handled by Mary Sue Feldmeier, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson.

CASE NUMBER: CR 08-0628-TUC-RCC-(JM)  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2008-235(Silva-Manriquez)

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