



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

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**MEXICAN MAN SENTENCED TO 2 YEARS IN PRISON AND ORDERED
TO FORFEIT \$484,750 FOR CURRENCY SMUGGLING ATTEMPT**

TUCSON, Ariz. – Alejandro Ugarte-Sabino, 39, of Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge David C. Bury to two years in federal prison. Ugarte-Sabino pleaded guilty on May 13, 2008 to Bulk Cash Smuggling for a 2007 attempt to smuggle over \$484,000 in U.S. currency into Mexico.

On November 20, 2007, Ugarte-Sabino traveled southbound toward Mexico. At the Port of Entry in Nogales, Ariz., U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials conducted a routine southbound inspection, asked him if he had any items to declare and advised him of the currency reporting requirement for currency in excess of \$10,000. A CBP official conducting roving inspections asked Ugarte-Sabino for his identification and noticed that his hands were shaking.

The official explained that transporting more than \$10,000 in currency must be reported. Ugarte-Sabino denied having any currency to report. An inspection of Ugarte-Sabino's vehicle revealed multiple containers which concealed a total of \$484,750 in U.S. currency and he admitted he was to be paid to transport the currency into Mexico.

The sentencing occurred on September 12, 2008. Following completion of his federal prison term, Ugarte-Sabino will be turned over to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. In addition, the judge ordered the forfeiture of the \$484,750.

The investigation in this case was conducted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The prosecution was handled by Sandra Marie Hansen, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson.

CASE NUMBER: CR-08-0608-TUC-DCB
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