



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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TUCSON WOMAN SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR SMUGGLING CHILDREN INTO THE U.S.

TUCSON, Ariz. – Dolores Onesima Montano, 30, of Tucson, was sentenced today to 15 months in prison and two years of supervised release by U.S. District Judge John M. Roll. Montano pleaded guilty on January 24, 2008, to conspiring to transport an illegal alien for profit.

On August 23, 2006, Montano presented herself for admission into the United States at the port of entry in Nogales, Ariz. She was accompanied by a 7- year-old male child and claimed that she was the child's mother. Officials with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) noticed a baby bottle in the back of the van and inquired about the baby. Montano did not acknowledge that another child was in the van. CBP officials then requested that she open the van and another child, a 3-year-old female, was found. Montano immediately claimed that the second child was her other son and that both children were U.S. citizens. Further investigation revealed that the children, brother and sister, were Mexican citizens and that Montano was to receive \$400 to smuggle the children into the U.S.

The smuggled children were turned over to the custody of the Mexican Consulate who then turned them over to the Mexican Department of Family Services (the Mexican equivalent of U.S. Child Protective Services) to be reunited with their family.

The investigation in this case was conducted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The prosecution was handled by Cynthia R. Wood, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson.

CASE NUMBER: CR-06-1603-TUC
RELEASE NUMBER: 2008-262(Montano)

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