



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

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ANOTHER CHILD SMUGGLER SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR 15 MONTHS

TUCSON, Ariz. – Maria de los Angeles Millanes-Blanco, 50, of Nogales, Sonora, Mexico, was sentenced here today to 15 months in federal prison by U.S. District Judge Cindy K. Jorgenson. Millanes-Blanco pleaded guilty on August 19, 2008 to Conspiracy to Transport an Illegal Alien for Profit.

Millanes-Blanco attempted to enter the United States on July 7, 2008, at the DeConcini Port of Entry in Nogales, Ariz. with an 8-year-old girl. She presented a laser visa for the child and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials became suspicious because the girl did not resemble the child pictured in the laser visa. It was later determined that the child was actually a Mexican citizen with no authorization to be in the U.S.

Millanes-Blanco admitted she did not know the girl's name or her parents. She said an unidentified woman drove her to a hotel in Mexico where she picked up the child. Millanes-Blanco was given a fraudulent laser visa for the child and was instructed to tell CBP officials that she was the child's godmother and that they were going shopping in Nogales, Ariz. Millanes-Blanco also admitted that she was to be paid \$150 to take the child across the border and deliver the child to an unknown woman.

Millanes-Blanco, a Mexican citizen with a laser visa (formerly known as a border crossing card) authorizing entry to the United States, is also pending removal proceedings from the U.S. as a result of this conviction. The smuggled child was turned over to the custody of the Mexican Department of Family Services (the Mexican equivalent of U.S. Child Protective Services) and has been reunited with her 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-08-1024-TUC-CKJ
RELEASE NUMBER: 2008-289(Millanes-Blanco)

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