



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **DOUGLAS WOMAN SENTENCED FOR MARIJUANA SMUGGLING ATTEMPT**

*Woman's sister and seven children were in the vehicle during smuggling attempt*

TUCSON, Ariz.- Monica Aguirre Martinez, 33, of Douglas, Ariz., was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Cindy K. Jorgenson to eight months in federal prison for importation and possession with intent to distribute marijuana. Martinez' sister and seven of their children, ages two to 14, were in the car when the marijuana was found by U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials.

On Sunday, May 11, 2008, Martinez, a United States citizen crossing into Arizona from Mexico with her sister and seven children, traveled through the Port of Entry at Douglas, Ariz. Customs and Border Protection officials discovered 9.66 kilograms (approximately 21 lbs.) of marijuana concealed in a compartment under the center console. Martinez admitted she was to be paid \$1,000 to smuggle the marijuana into the U.S.

Martinez was arrested and charged in May 2008 and pleaded guilty on July 17, 2008. The Judge ordered Martinez to turn herself in to Deputy U.S. Marshals on December 29, 2008 to begin her prison term.

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 Anne E. Mosher, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson.

CASE NUMBER: CR-08-0801-TUC-CKJ  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2008-316(Martinez)

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