



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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For Information Contact Public Affairs
SANDY RAYNOR
Telephone: (602) 514-7625

MEXICAN MAN SENTENCED TO SEVEN YEARS FOR FATAL ROLLOVER

TUCSON – Francisco Javier Morquecho-Valdez, 20, a Mexican citizen, was sentenced Thursday to 84 months imprisonment, by U.S. District Court Chief Judge John M. Roll. The defendant had pleaded guilty to Transporting an Illegal Alien for the Purpose of Commercial Advantage or Private Financial Gain, Resulting in Death.

On April 13, 2008, Morquecho-Valdez, an illegal alien, was driving a stolen pick-up truck in which he was transporting fourteen additional illegal aliens. While driving on State Route 90 near Sierra Vista, Morquecho-Valdez lost control of the vehicle and ran off the road. The vehicle hit a tree and rolled end-over-end, ejecting several of the illegal aliens who had been unrestrained in the bed of the truck. Two of the illegal aliens Morquecho-Valdez was transporting were killed in the crash, and another four were critically injured. Morquecho-Valdez fled from the scene on foot and instructed the surviving illegal aliens to flee as well, but all were eventually apprehended approximately three to four miles from the site of the collision. The surviving illegal aliens identified Morquecho-Valdez as the driver of the vehicle. Morquecho-Valdez initially claimed to have been a passenger in the vehicle, but later admitted to having been the driver. Morquecho-Valdez had been found to be illegal present in the United States on nine separate occasions in the two months prior to the collision.

The investigation leading to the conviction was conducted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, United States Border Patrol, and Arizona Department of Public Safety. The prosecution was handled by Angela Woolridge, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-08-0596-TUC-JMR
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