

For Immediate Release
January 19, 2012

**MEXICAN NATIONAL SENTENCED TO 41 MONTHS
FOR UNLAWFUL RE-ENTRY INTO UNITED STATES**

ALBUQUERQUE – This afternoon in Albuquerque federal court, **Joel Sanchez-Tapia**, 26, was sentenced to a 41-month term of imprisonment for re-entering the United States without authorization and after having previously been deported. Sanchez-Tapia, a Mexican national, Mexico, will be deported after completing his prison sentence.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said Sanchez-Tapia previously was deported to Mexico on September 3, 2004 and again on June 11, 2007, following an aggravated possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance. Sanchez-Tapia was arrested in this case on August 10, 2011, by U.S. Border Patrol agents in Bernalillo County, N.M., after they determined that he was illegally in the United States. He has been in federal custody since that time. On October 26, 2011, Sanchez-Tapia entered a guilty plea to an information charging him with re-entry by a removed alien.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimberly Brawley prosecuted the case, which was investigated by the U.S. Border Patrol, U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

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