

For Immediate Release  
January 27, 2012

**MEXICAN NATIONAL PLEADS GUILTY TO BRIBERY**

LAS CRUCES – U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales announced that yesterday, **Gabriela Quintana-Hernandez**, 25, of Gomez Farias, Chihuahua, Mexico, pled guilty to an information charging her with bribery. Quintana-Hernandez, who has been in federal custody since her arrest on December 1, 2011, will remain in custody pending her sentencing hearing, which has not yet been set.

At sentencing, Quintana-Hernandez faces a maximum penalty of fifteen years of imprisonment, three years of supervised release, and a \$250,000 fine. According to court filings, on December 1, 2011, at the Columbus Port of Entry, Quintana-Hernandez offered a U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer a \$2,500 bribe. Quintana-Hernandez told the officer that she would pay him the money if he would help her get to Albuquerque, N.M. She offered the officer the bribe because she did not have immigration documents permitting her to enter the United States legally. The officer reported the bribe and Quintana-Hernandez was arrested at the port.

The case was investigated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Professional Responsibility, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Customs and Border Protection Internal Affairs, and the Department of Homeland Security Office of the Inspector General. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Nathan J. Lichvarcik.

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