



U.S. Department of Justice
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PRESS RELEASE

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**POLISH MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO TRANSPORTING ILLEGAL ALIENS
TO FRAUDULENTLY OBTAIN NEW MEXICO DRIVERS' LICENSES**

ALBUQUERQUE – U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales announced that **Pawel Skladnik**, 38, a citizen of Poland, has pleaded guilty to transporting illegal aliens. Skladnik entered his guilty plea under a plea agreement with the U.S. Attorney's Office in federal court in Albuquerque yesterday.

Skladnik and co-defendant **Lukasz Koslik**, 28, also a Polish national, were indicted on August 9, 2011, and charged with (1) conspiracy to possess, use and transfer identity documents in furtherance of a state felony; (2) conspiracy to transport illegal aliens. During yesterday's plea hearing, Skladnik pled guilty to Count 2 of the indictment.

According to the indictment, Skladnik, Koslik and a co-conspirator conspired to assist foreign nationals illegally obtain New Mexico drivers' licenses for profit, and to transport foreign nationals to New Mexico for that purpose. The indictment alleges that the co-conspirator provided transportation to illegal aliens who were seeking to fraudulently obtain New Mexico drivers' licenses, and that Koslik and the co-conspirator provided false residency documents to the illegal aliens. Skladnik's role in the conspiracy was to train his co-conspirators on how to fraudulently obtain identity documents for illegal aliens, and to advertise the conspiracy's illegal services in newspapers and on-line magazines.

In his plea agreement, Skladnik admitted that between March 1, 2011 and July 20, 2011,

he conspired with others to transport illegal aliens into the state of New Mexico. He further admitted to arranging and facilitating the transportation of illegal aliens to and from the offices of the New Mexico Motor Vehicle Division so that they could obtain drivers' licenses.

Skladnik has been in federal custody since his arrest on August 16, 2011, and will remain in custody pending his sentencing hearing, which has yet to be scheduled. At sentencing, Skladnik faces up to ten years of imprisonment.

Lukasz Koslik has yet to be arrested and is considered a fugitive. Charges in indictments are only accusations and criminal defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

The case was investigated by the Homeland Security Investigations, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Shammara H. Henderson and Norman Cairns.

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