



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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District of Arizona*

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ANOTHER CHILD SMUGGLER SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON

TUCSON, Ariz. – Jesus Antonio Andrade-Hernandez, 24, of Ahome, Sinaloa, Mexico, was sentenced today to 15 months in prison by U.S. District Court Judge Marvin E. Aspen. Andrade-Hernandez pleaded guilty on January 5, 2009, to Conspiracy to Transport an Illegal Alien for Profit.

Andrade-Hernandez attempted to enter the United States on October 17, 2008, at the Nogales, Ariz. Port of Entry via the pedestrian lane accompanied by an 8-year-old girl, for whom Andrade-Hernandez presented a valid laser visa that belonged to another child. The Customs and Border Protection official became suspicious and referred them for further inspection.

During questioning, Andrade-Hernandez admitted that he was contacted by his neighbor and was asked if he was willing to smuggle a little girl into the U.S. for \$150. After he agreed to smuggle the child, a woman stopped by his house with the girl and a laser visa to use to smuggle the girl. The woman gave him instructions to take the girl to a shoe store in Nogales, where a man would be waiting for them. The woman gave Andrade-Hernandez and the girl a ride to the border.

Andrade-Hernandez also admitted that the laser visa did not belong to the girl and that he did not know the child's true name. The girl was interviewed and admitted to being a citizen of Mexico. She stated that she wanted to travel to Tennessee to live with her father. She said that an unknown woman picked her up at the hotel and took her to a house where she met the man who was later identified as Andrade-Hernandez. Andrade-Hernandez admitted in court proceedings that he thought the man he was to deliver the child to was her father.

The smuggled child was turned over to the custody of the Mexican Consulate who then turned her over to the Mexican Department of Family Services (the Mexican equivalent of U.S. Child Protective Services) to be reunited with her mother. The child was determined to be a Mexican Citizen with no legal documents allowing her to be in the United States.

The investigation in this case was conducted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The prosecution was handled by Raquel Arellano, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson.

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