



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

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HONDURAN ALIEN SMUGGLER SENTENCED TO 9 YEARS FOR HIS ROLE IN A VIOLENT PHOENIX DROP HOUSE

PHOENIX – Marlon Rubio, 28, of Nacaome Valle, Honduras, was sentenced yesterday by U.S. District Judge James A. Teilborg to nine years in federal prison. Rubio pleaded guilty to Using, Carrying, and Brandishing a Firearm During and in Relation to a Crime of Violence (Hostage Taking).

Rubio was one of three Honduran aliens who held 24 smuggled aliens hostage in a Phoenix drop house in July 2008. Conditions in the drop house were cruel and violent. Upon arrival, the smuggled aliens were forced to strip off their clothes and were then confined in windowless and overcrowded rooms. Rubio, a guard at the drop house, menaced the smuggled aliens with a loaded pistol, “dry-fired” the pistol at the smuggled aliens in order to scare them into paying smuggling fees, repeatedly held the pistol to the head of a female smuggled alien and verbally ridiculed the smuggled aliens.

The other guards engaged in similar misconduct. In one example, a guard carried a loaded firearm, held the gun to a female smuggled alien’s head and told her that “she would be taken out to the desert, shot, and raped” if she did not pay her fee. Another guard carried an air rifle and made unwelcome sexual advances toward the female.

The investigation was conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Phoenix Police Department. The prosecution was handled by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Dominic Lanza and Josh Patrick Parecki.

CASE NUMBER: CR-08-0954-PHX-JAT
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