



# Department of Justice

Acting United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown  
Eastern District of California

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## **MAN CHARGED WITH PRODUCING FRAUDULENT U.S. IMMIGRATION AND IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS IN BAKERSFIELD**

FRESNO, Calif.—Acting United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown announced today that a federal grand jury returned a multiple-count indictment charging RAMIRO BRISENO-LOPEZ, aka Johnny, 38, of Bakersfield, Calif., with possession, transfer, production, and sale of fraudulent United States immigration and social security identification.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

“Anyone who knowingly and indiscriminately sells phony identity cards is putting the security of our communities and even our country at risk,” said Michael Toms, resident agent in charge for the ICE Office of Investigations in Bakersfield. “Counterfeit documents can potentially be used by dangerous criminals and others who are attempting to obscure their identities and cover their tracks.”

According to Assistant United States Attorney Ian Garriques, who is prosecuting the case, the indictment alleges that between December 18, 2007 and May 7, 2009, BRISENO-LOPEZ possessed, transferred, produced, and sold fraudulent immigration and identification documents including United States social security cards and alien registration receipt cards (commonly known as “green cards”). According to documents filed in court, BRISENO-LOPEZ would meet prospective purchasers in public locations, take their pictures and biographical details, return to his own residence to produce the documents, and then provide the purchaser with the fraudulent documents. ICE agents executed a federal search warrant at BRISENO-LOPEZ’s residence on May 7, 2009 and uncovered alleged fraudulent document-making items, implements, and supplies.

If convicted, BRISENO-LOPEZ faces a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison. The actual sentence, however, will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables and any applicable statutory sentencing factors. The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

BRISENO-LOPEZ is scheduled to appear in court before United States Magistrate Judge Sandra M. Snyder on May 22, 2009 at 1:30 PM.

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