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United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown
Eastern District of California

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CONTACT: Lauren Horwood
PHONE: 916-554-2706
usacae.edcapress@usdoj.gov

CRIMINAL ALIEN SENTENCED TO 8 YEARS IN PRISON FOR ILLEGAL REENTRY

FRESNO, Calif. — United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown announced today that ROGELIO ESPINOZA-BAZA, 29, a native of Mexico, was sentenced by Chief United States District Judge Anthony W. Ishii to 8 years in prison for illegally reentering the United States. On May 7, 2009, a Fresno jury convicted ESPINOZA-BAZA on two counts of illegal reentry after prior deportation.

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

According to Assistant United States Attorneys Ian Garriques and David Gappa, who prosecuted the case, ESPINOZA-BAZA claimed at trial that immigration authorities lacked sufficient proof of his illegal reentries into the United States. In finding him guilty, the jury relied on evidence showing that ESPINOZA-BAZA had been deported in 2002 and 2005. After illegally reentering the United States, ESPINOZA-BAZA was found by immigration authorities in a Kern County state prison in 2004 and 2007.

At sentencing, Judge Ishii commented on ESPINOZA-BAZA's repeated disregard for federal immigration law and his prior state convictions for drug trafficking, assault with a deadly weapon, and evading a peace officer.

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