

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA San Diego, California

***United States Attorney
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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - September 15, 2009

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Jose Luis Cardenas, a.k.a. Alfonso Pioquinto, a.k.a. Carlos Jesus Martinez, was sentenced yesterday in federal court in San Diego by the Honorable John A. Houston to serve 84 months in custody based on Cardenas's conviction for aggravated identity theft and being an illegal alien found in the United States after deportation. Cardenas was found guilty by a jury on June 10, 2009.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Rebecca S. Kanter, who prosecuted the case, Cardenas is a citizen of Mexico who was previously deported from the United. Cardenas used the identity of a United States citizen victim in order to stay in the United States unlawfully. At trial, the United States presented evidence that, since at least 1993, Cardenas used the victim's personal information, obtaining a copy of his social security card, California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) identification cards, and driver's licenses in the Martinez name, and a certified copy of the victim's birth certificate. Cardenas used the victim's name, date of birth, and place of birth on July 17, 2007, when he was encountered by the United

States Border Patrol in order to claim falsely that he was a United States citizen and attempt to avoid apprehension.

Cardenas was previously deported from the United States on several occasions after sustaining two prior felony drug trafficking convictions. After Cardenas completes his custodial sentence, he will be deported to Mexico.

DEFENDANT

Criminal Case No. 07-CR-2231-JAH

Jose Luis Cardenas

SUMMARY OF CHARGE

Count One - Title 8, United States Code, Section 1326 - Deported Alien Found in the United States

Count Two - Title 18, United States Code, Section 1028A - Aggravated Identity Theft

INVESTIGATING AGENCIES

United States Border Patrol, Department of Homeland Security

California Department of Motor Vehicles