



Department of Justice

United States Attorney A. Brian Albritton
Middle District of Florida

Tampa	Orlando	Jacksonville	Ocala	Fort Myers
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE			CONTACT: STEVE COLE	
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http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/flm/pr			FAX: (813) 274-6300	

VENEZUELAN CITIZEN SENTENCED TO 2 YEARS FOR CREDIT CARD FRAUD

Orlando, Florida - Chief U.S. District Judge Anne C. Conway today sentenced Ricardo Eslava (age 45, of Venezuela) to two years in federal prison for credit card fraud. Eslava also was ordered to pay \$39,079.54 in restitution to American Express. He had pleaded guilty on October 31, 2008.

According to court documents, Eslava used American Express credit cards that had not been issued to him to make thousands of dollars of unauthorized charges at businesses in the Orlando area. The businesses included a local restaurant and multiple gas stations. Upon his arrest, Eslava had eight American Express cards. Consent searches of his vehicle and residence led to the discovery of a computer that contained more than 200 American Express credit card numbers that did not belong to and were not issued to Eslava.

This case was investigated by the United States Secret Service. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Roger B. Handberg.