



Department of Justice

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District of North Dakota

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hankinson Man Indicted on Failure to Register as a Sex Offender

FARGO - United States Attorney Drew Wrigley announces that

Efrain Franco, Jr. of Hankinson, North Dakota, was indicted by a federal grand jury on September 23, 2008, and is charged with failure to register as a sex offender. **Franco, Jr.** plead not guilty during his first appearance in United States District Court on October 6, 2008, before United States District Court Magistrate Judge Karen K. Klein.

Franco, Jr., a/k/a Jesus Chavez-Rios, 30, is charged with failing to register and update registration as required by the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act. **Franco, Jr.** was convicted in 2001 of Sexual Abuse in the Third Degree in Woodbury County, Iowa. **Franco, Jr.** allegedly moved from Iowa to Hankinson, ND, in August of 2008, and failed to register as a sex offender.

The statutory maximum sentence for failure to register as a sex offender is ten years' imprisonment.

The case is being investigated by the United States Marshals Service.

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Wrigley stressed that an indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

A trial for **Franco, Jr.** is scheduled for November 12, 2008.

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