



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Northern District of New York*

James T. Foley U.S. Courthouse

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PRESS RELEASE

ACTING UNITED STATES ATTORNEY ANDREW T. BAXTER announced that **DIEGO LESMES-MALDONADO**, age 31, of Boca Raton, Florida, was sentenced today by Senior United States District Court Judge Lawrence E. Kahn in Albany, New York to six months in Federal prison, to be followed by supervised release for three years, upon his conviction of High Speed Flight From Immigration Checkpoint. Following the completion of the period of imprisonment LESMES-MALDONADO will be processed for removal by the Department of Homeland Security.

On November 25, 2008, LESMES-MALDONADO pled guilty to a one-count Indictment charging him with the felony offense of High Speed Flight From Immigration Checkpoint.

LESMES-MALDONADO, an illegal alien, citizen of Columbia, was encountered by United States Customs and Border Protection officers at the Rouses Point Port of Entry on New York State Route 9B in Rouses Point, New York shortly before midnight on September 11, 2008. While the immigration and customs inspection of LESMES-MALDONADO was being conducted, LESMES-MALDONADO disregarded the instructions of the officers and drove south, away from the Port of Entry, at a high rate of speed. He was observed immediately turning east, driving over Lake Champlain on Route 2, and entering Vermont. United States Border Patrol and the Grand Isle

Vermont Sheriff's Department pursued LESMES-MALDONADO over the bridge and in Vermont at speeds in excess of the posted speed limit. LESMES-MALDONADO was apprehended and the pursuit terminated when the vehicle he was driving was disabled by spike strips deployed in the Town of South Hero, Vermont. The pursuit lasted approximately 30 minutes.

This matter was investigated by the United States Border Patrol, Swanton, Vermont, Grand Isle Vermont Sheriff's Department, and United States Customs and Border Protection, Rouses Point, New York.

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