



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ODESSA MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN CONNECTION WITH OILFIELD TRUCK THEFT SCHEME

John E. Murphy, Acting United States Attorney, announced that this afternoon in Midland, Steven Ray Pinedo, 26, of Odessa pleaded guilty to stealing two trucks belonging to Bobcat Pressure Control Inc., and illegally exporting them to the Republic of Mexico in March 2008. The two trucks, with accompanying trailers and mounted equipment, had an approximate aggregate value in the neighborhood of \$1 million. At the time the crime was committed, Pinedo was the owner/operator of Pinedo Trucking of Odessa.

Appearing before United States Magistrate Judge B. Dwight Goains, Pinedo pleaded guilty to one count of transportation of stolen vehicles in foreign commerce. By pleading guilty, Pinedo admitted that he and David Gonzalez Pando arranged for two 2007 Kenworth truck tractors, one with a mounted pumping unit and another with a drop deck trailer, to be stolen from Bobcat's yard in Odessa on March 12, 2008. Pando had access to the yard by virtue of his employment at the company. Pinedo further admitted that he and Pando arranged for the two trucks to be transported to Mexico, crossing illegally at a low-water point near Ruidosa, Texas, in the early morning hours the next day.

Pinedo faces up to ten years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. In addition, federal law requires that he be ordered to make full restitution to Bobcat as part of his sentence.

Pando pleaded guilty to the same charge on January 12, 2009, and is awaiting sentencing.

The case was investigated by agents with United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Texas Department of Public Safety. Assistant United States Attorney John S. Klassen is prosecuting the matter for the Government.

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