



**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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MEXICAN TRUCK DRIVER PLEADS GUILTY TO DRUG TRAFFICKING

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that yesterday in federal court in El Paso, Texas, Eduardo Martinez-Valenzuela, 24, of Cd. Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico, pleaded guilty to importing 2700 kilograms of marijuana while working as a truck driver.

By pleading guilty Martinez-Valenzuela admitted that on October 14, 2008, while working as a truck driver he attempted to bring into the United States 2700 kilograms of marijuana that he was to be paid \$5,000.00 upon delivery. Martinez-Valenzuela indicated to agents of Customs and Border Protection that he was importing coffee but in fact the truck's trailer was loaded with marijuana which was being concealed as coffee.

Sentencing is set for April 16, 2009, where Martinez-Valenzuela faces a 10 year mandatory minimum sentence, a maximum \$400,000.00 fine and 5 years of supervised release.

The case was investigated by agents of Customs and Border Protection. Assistant United States Attorney George Leal is prosecuting the matter for the Government.

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