

NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - February 10, 2011

United States Attorney Laura E. Duffy announced that Efrain Flores Ortiz, a 32-year-old Mexican citizen, allegedly tied to a homicide which took place in Ixpantepec Nieves, a small town in southwestern Mexico, in July 2007, was certified for extradition today by United States Magistrate Judge Jan M. Adler.

According to Magistrate Judge Adler's written order dated February 9, 2011, Flores Ortiz is wanted to stand trial in the Mexican State of Oaxaca for the alleged killing of Celerino Adan Ortiz Vivar on July 31, 2007. According to the facts presented by Mexican authorities in a request for extradition, the decedent's nephew witnessed the shooting, which occurred on the street in front of the decedent's house in the small Oaxacan town. After hearing gunshots, the decedent's wife and son ran from the house to find him shot and to see Flores Ortiz flee. Magistrate Judge Adler found that Mexico had presented sufficient evidence and met the other legal requirements to warrant Flores Ortiz' return to Mexico to face trial on the murder charge.

According to court records, Flores Ortiz was arrested by the United States Marshals Service in San Diego on July 6, 2010 and has been in federal custody without bail pending his extradition to Mexico. If convicted, Flores Ortiz faces a possible sentence of 30 to 40 years' imprisonment in Mexico.

The proceedings were held pursuant to the Extradition Treaty between the United States and Mexico, which obligates each nation to extradite offenders wanted in the other country. During today's proceedings, Assistant United States Attorney Robert Huie represented the Government of Mexico, which provided the request to extradite Flores Ortiz through diplomatic channels. The final decision to formally turn over Flores Ortiz to Mexico will be made by the Secretary of State.

United States Attorney Duffy stated, "We will continue to vigorously enforce our treaty obligations to extradite offenders who commit crimes in Mexico, and we will use every tool at our disposal to assist our Mexican counterparts to bring criminals to justice. Fugitives from justice cannot take refuge in the United States."

THE EXTRADITION COMPLAINT AND RULING OF THE MAGISTRATE JUDGE DO NOT CONSTITUTE A CONVICTION FOR THE CRIMES CHARGES AGAINST FLORES ORTIZ IN MEXICO.