

NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney
Laura E. Duffy***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - November 17, 2011

United States Attorney Laura E. Duffy announced the unsealing yesterday of a complaint charging eight individuals with conspiracy to transport illegal aliens, in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Sections 1324(a)(1) (A)(ii) and (v)(I). The complaint charges Gil Reyes-Cruz, Javier Cruz-Renteria, Procopio Gudino, Francisco Alejandro Ramirez, Lester Eckstein-Paz, Jose Jimenez-Magana, Miguel Angel Torres, Jr., and Rodrigo Roy Romero with transporting illegal aliens from an area near Jacumba, California to Orange County. The defendants were arrested yesterday and made their initial appearance in the Central District of California. The defendants are expected to appear in district court in San Diego over the next few weeks.

According to court records, the defendants conspired with each other and others to smuggle aliens from Mexico to Orange County, California. Court documents allege that the defendants were drivers or recruited drivers to pick up illegal aliens at designated locations in San Diego County and transport them to their sponsors in Orange County for payment; the fee ranged from \$4,000 to \$5,000 per illegal alien.

The case was investigated by Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations.

DEFENDANTS

Case Number: 11MJ4314

Gil Reyes-Cruz

Javier Cruz-Renteria

Procopio Gudino

Francisco Alejandro Ramirez

Lester Eckstein-Paz

Jose Jimenez-Magana

Miguel Angel Torres, Jr.

Rodrigo Roy Romero

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Title 8, United States Code, Sections 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii) and (v)(I) - Conspiracy to Transport Illegal Aliens

Maximum Penalty: 5 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine per count.

AGENCY

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations

A complaint itself is not evidence that the defendants committed the crimes charged. The defendants are presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.