

NEWS RELEASE



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SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
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For Immediate Release

**ILLEGAL ALIEN PLEADS GUILTY TO VOTER FRAUD,
FALSE CLAIM TO U.S. CITIZENSHIP, AND ILLEGAL REENTRY**

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY – September 7, 2012

San Diego, CA – United States Attorney Laura E. Duffy announced that yesterday Ricardo Lopez-Munguia, who assumed the identity of a U.S. citizen, namely Gustavo Carranza-Madrigal, pled guilty to three felonies – Voter Fraud, False Claim to U.S. Citizenship, and Attempted Reentry After Deportation – in San Diego before U.S. Magistrate Judge William McCurine, Jr. Lopez-Munguia faces a maximum term of 28 years in prison for all three crimes. After serving his sentence, Lopez-Munguia will be deported to Mexico. The plea is subject to final acceptance by United States District Judge Larry A. Burns.

As part of his guilty plea, Lopez-Munguia admitted he was convicted in 1986 of two drug trafficking offenses involving heroin. In 1987, an immigration judge ordered that Lopez-Munguia be deported to Mexico. Thereafter, immigration officials returned Lopez-Munguia to Mexico. However, Lopez-Munguia illegally returned to the United States and assumed the identity of Gustavo Carranza-Madrigal, a U.S. citizen. Lopez-Munguia continued to reside in the United States and used his assumed identity to fraudulently obtain a Social Security card, California driver's license, and a U.S. passport. In addition, Lopez-Munguia unlawfully used his assumed identity to vote in the Presidential Election in 2008.

According to the plea agreement, Lopez-Munguia attempted to reenter the United States from Mexico on July 5, 2012. He falsely claimed to the Customs and Border Protection officer that he was a citizen of the United States, when in fact he knew he was not a citizen of the United States. According to court records, Lopez-Munguia was arrested that day and is currently being held in federal custody.

Lopez-Munguia is scheduled to be sentenced on November 19, 2012 in U.S. District Court before the Honorable Larry A. Burns.

DEFENDANT

CASE NUMBER: 12CR3188-LAB

Ricardo Lopez-Munguia

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Count 1: Attempted Entry after Deportation – Title 8, United States Code, Section 1326
Count 2: False Claim to U.S. Citizenship – Title 18, United States Code, Section 911
Count 3: Voter Fraud by an Illegal Alien – Title 18, United States Code, 1015

INVESTIGATING AGENCIES

Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations
Customs and Border Protection