



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Northern District of Illinois
Western Division*

*John G. McKenzie
Assistant U.S. Attorney
www.usdoj.gov/usao/iln*

*308 West State Street - Room 300
Rockford, Illinois 61101*

*PH: (815) 987-4444
FAX: (815) 987-4236*

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MEXICAN CITIZEN FOUND IN WINNEBAGO COUNTY SENTENCED TO 51 MONTHS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR ILLEGALLY RE-ENTERING THE UNITED STATES

ROCKFORD -- PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and GARY J. HARTWIG, Special Agent in Charge of the Chicago Office of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security - U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, today made the following announcement:

United States District Judge Frederick J. Kapala today sentenced **JOSE GUADALUPE GONZALEZ-BELTRAN** (a/k/a "Jose G. Gonzalez"), 61, who is a citizen of Mexico, to 51 months in prison for illegally re-entering the United States following his previous deportation to Mexico. A federal jury found Gonzalez-Beltran guilty on February 16, 2010, after a one day trial.

Gonzalez-Beltran was originally charged by a federal criminal complaint on February 17, 2009, with illegally re-entering the United States. He was indicted by a federal grand jury on February 24, 2009, and charged with that same offense. According to the criminal complaint, Gonzalez-Beltran originally entered the United States in 1973 as a resident alien pursuant to a valid immigrant visa. However, the complaint charged, on April 3, 1995, Gonzalez-Beltran was convicted of possession of cocaine with intent to deliver and sentenced to 180 days in jail. According to the complaint, after his release from jail he returned to Mexico. In July of 2001, he was arrested when he attempted to enter the United States, and, as charged in the indictment, on May 13, 2002, Gonzalez-Beltran was deported and banned for 10 years from re-entering the United States. The indictment alleged that Gonzalez-Beltran was found in the United States on January 17, 2009.

In addition to the 51 months prison sentence, the court ordered Gonzalez-Beltran to surrender to immigration authorities following his release from prison.

The case was investigated by the Chicago office of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, a part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and was assisted by the Rockford Police Department. The case was prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorney JOHN G. MCKENZIE.

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