



*U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Attorney  
Southern District of Mississippi*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**SEVEN PLEAD GUILTY TO IDENTITY THEFT**

Hattiesburg, Miss - Seven defendants, including six illegal aliens, pled guilty in U.S. District Court on Friday, February 3, to conspiracy to commit identity theft, announced U.S. Attorney John Dowdy and Raymond R. Parmer, Jr., Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) in New Orleans.

Julieta Rivera Lopez, 37, of Mexico, Jose Acencio-Sanchez, 23, of Mexico, and Enrique Martinez Lopez, 49, of Mexico, pled guilty to conspiring to commit identity theft and sell fraudulent social security cards. They each face a maximum penalty of 5 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Arturo Apodaca Tejeda, 40, of Mexico, and Benlly Hernandez-Cordova, 33, of Mexico, pled guilty to conspiring to commit identity theft and sell false social security cards, and to possession of a firearm by an illegal alien. They each face a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Ricardo Rodriguez, 19, of Mobile, Alabama, pled guilty to aggravated identity theft, and faces a mandatory sentence of 2 years in prison.

All seven defendants will be sentenced on April 26, 2012 in U.S. District Court in Hattiesburg.

"Document and benefit fraud poses a significant vulnerability that must not go unchallenged," said Raymond R. Parmer, Jr., Special Agent in Charge of HSI in New Orleans. "This action should send a clear message that HSI and its law enforcement partners will identify and dismantle those criminal organizations that perpetrate document fraud. We are committed to ensuring that our nation's security is not breached in this manner." Parmer oversees a five-state area which includes Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, Alabama and Arkansas.

The case was investigated by the Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations. It is prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Annette Williams.

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