



Department of Justice

**United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian
Northern District of New York**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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[Plattsburgh, New York]—United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian announced today that RUBEN S. MINJARES, was sentenced to three years imprisonment on Friday, January 21, 2011, before United States District Judge Glenn T. Suddaby in Syracuse, for commercial alien smuggling.

MINJARES, age 57, of Ridgewood, New York, was convicted in August 2010 after a jury trial, on all charges: one count of aiding and abetting the bringing of aliens to the United States for the purpose of commercial advantage and private financial gain; one count of aiding and abetting the smuggling of an illegal alien into the United States and failure to take the alien to a port of entry for inspection; and one count of transporting or attempting to transport an illegal alien within the United States. MINJARES was sentenced to 36 months imprisonment for Count 1 and 16 months imprisonment for Count 3 and 5, which will run concurrently. He will be on supervised release for 2 years following his release.

The evidence at trial demonstrated that MINJARES participated in a commercial smuggling organization that transported illegal aliens from Montreal to the New York City area, utilizing a remote area to cross the border near Fort Covington, in the State and Northern District of New York. On August 22, 2009, a concerned citizen from the area alerted the United States Border Patrol, Burke Station of Swanton Sector, to suspicious activity, which resulted in a manhunt that ultimately led to the discovery of illegal aliens and defendant MINJARES in position to drive at least one of the aliens to the New York City area.

United States Attorney Hartunian stated that the successful prosecution of MINJARES is an example of the importance of citizens living along the border helping to provide information to law

enforcement about possible illegal activity in the area. The case was investigated by the United States Border Patrol and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Horsman of the Plattsburgh Office of the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Any questions may be directed to Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Horsman, Plattsburgh, 518-314-7800 or Deputy Criminal Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney William Pericak at (518)431-0247.