



Department of Justice

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**OWNER OF EL CHEBO EMPRESSA AUTOMOTRIZ CONVICTED OF BEING AN
ILLEGAL ALIEN IN POSSESSION OF A FIREARM**

Tampa, FL - U.S. Attorney Robert E. O'Neill announces that a federal jury today found Eusebio Bernardo-Fernando (38, Clearwater) guilty of being an alien in possession of a firearm. Eusebio Bernardo-Fernando faces a maximum penalty of 10 years in federal prison. His sentencing is scheduled for September 26, 2011.

According to evidence presented at trial, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations (ICE-HSI) received a tip that the owner of El Chebo Empressa Automotriz was an illegal alien who was in possession of a firearm. On June 30, 2009, ICE agents went to the business and made contact with Bernardo-Fernando. When asked for identification, Bernardo-Fernando provided agents with a Mexican passport and a Mexican Consular Identification card. Bernardo-Fernando consented to the agents' search of the premises where they located a Smith and Wesson .357 revolver, under a mattress in the upstairs bedroom.

This case was investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Stacie B. Harris.