

For Immediate Release
October 4, 2011

**FEDERAL JURY CONVICTS MEXICAN NATIONAL OF
ILLEGAL RE-ENTRY AFTER DEPORTATION**

LAS CRUCES – Today, a federal jury sitting in Las Cruces convicted **Armando Lozano-Morales**, 40, of re-entry the United States after previously having been deported after a two-day trial. The jury deliberated for two hours before returning the guilty verdict.

Lozano-Morales has been in federal custody since September 13, 2010, and remains detained pending his sentencing hearing, which has yet to be scheduled.

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that the evidence at trial established that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents encountered Lozano-Morales on September 11, 2010, at the Doña Ana County Detention Center after he had been arrested by officers of the Sunland Park Police Department. During an interview with the ICE agents, Lozano-Morales admitted that he was a Mexican citizen without any immigration status in the United States. Agents learned through a review of immigration records that Lozano-Morales previously had been deported from the United States to Mexico on October 10, 2003, and had not obtained permission to reenter the United States. On September 13, 2010, Lozano-Morales was released from state custody, and charged by federal criminal complaint with a re-entry after deportation offense.

At sentencing, Lozano-Morales faces a maximum sentence of 20 years of imprisonment, three years of supervised release, and a \$250,000 fine.

This case was investigated by ICE, with assistance from the Sunland Park Police Department, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Michael D. Nammar and Michael Pleters.

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