

For Immediate Release  
May 10, 2011

**LONG-HAUL TRUCK DRIVER PLEADS GUILTY TO  
TRANSPORTING UNDOCUMENTED ALIENS**

LAS CRUCES – Today in Las Cruces, **Ulises Lluch-Valdes**, a 42-year-old Santa Clarita, California resident, pled guilty to transporting undocumented aliens. Lluch-Valdes was arrested on March 3, 2011 and released on a \$5,000 bond. He remains on release pending his sentencing hearing, which has not yet been scheduled.

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that the charge arose out of conduct occurring at the I-10 United States Border Patrol checkpoint in Doña Ana County, New Mexico. According to the criminal complaint filed in the case, Lluch-Valdes drove his tractor-trailer into the I-10 checkpoint west of Las Cruces on March 3, 2011. During an inspection, agents found three undocumented aliens hiding inside the cab of the tractor-trailer. In documents filed with the court, Lluch-Valdes admitted that he was charging the three individuals \$800 each to transport them to California in his tractor-trailer.

The penalty for the offense is up to 10 years in prison and three years of supervised release. The case was investigated by Homeland Security Investigations and the United States Border Patrol, and is being prosecuted by Special Assistant United States Attorney Michael PleTERS.

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