



Department of Justice

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HONDURAN CITIZEN SENTENCED FOR FILING FALSE PASSPORT APPLICATION

Jackson, Miss. – Jorge Alberto Castillo-Aguilar a/k/a Anibal Padilla Velez, 47, a citizen and national of Honduras, was sentenced in U.S. District Court today to serve 8 months in prison, followed by 3 years supervised release, for filing a false application to renew a previously-obtained fraudulent passport, U.S. Attorney John Dowdy announced.

On April 24, 2011, Castillo-Aguilar was pulled over during a traffic stop by the Rankin County Sheriff's Office. He was subsequently arrested for an expired driver's license, no proof of insurance, and providing false information to a law enforcement officer, claiming to be a Puerto Rican citizen by the name of Anibal Padilla Velez. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE") was contacted for assistance, and during an interview with ICE, Castillo-Aguilar ultimately admitted his real name was Castillo-Aguilar and that he was a Honduran citizen who had come to the United States via the U.S.-Mexican border. Castillo-Aguilar stated that he had purchased a Puerto Rican identity in Atlanta, Georgia and had used that identity to obtain the original United States passport and a Georgia driver's license. On June 18, 2010, Castillo-Aguilar applied with the U.S. Department of State to renew the previously-obtained, fraudulent passport in the name of Anibal Padilla Velez.

On May 13, 2011, Castillo-Aguilar was charged with making a false statement on the June 18, 2010, renewal application for the previously-obtained, fraudulent United States passport. He pled guilty to the charge on May 25, 2011.

U.S. Attorney Dowdy commended the investigative efforts of the Immigration Enforcement Agents of the ICE Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations, and the Rankin County Sheriff's Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mike Hurst.

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