



PRESS RELEASE

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ALIEN SMUGGLER SENTENCED TO 48 MONTHS

PHOENIX, ARIZONA –The United States Attorneys Office for the District of Arizona, announced that on May 7, 2003, Jose Guadalupe Maciel-Ramos, 4/17/76(D.O.B.), of Mexico, was sentenced to 48 months imprisonment by United States District Judge John M. Roll, in Tucson, Arizona.

On June 7, 2002, U.S. Border Patrol agents from the Border Patrol station in Ajo, Arizona, received information that a large group of illegal aliens were in distress. Agents responded to the area and located Macial-Ramos and 42 illegal aliens. Additionally, the deceased remains of a man who had been traveling with the group were recovered. Maciel-Ramos had been the guide of the group. He had recruited the group from Guanajuato and Micoacan, Mexico. He was with them on a specially chartered bus that brought them from the south of Mexico to the border area near Sonoyta, Sonora, to be smuggled into the United States. Macial-Ramos had told the group that they would only have to walk about 16 hours and that they would need only one or two gallons of water. Maciel-Ramos then led the group into the United States on foot. When members of the group ran out of water, they began dispersing to look for help. One man ultimately died from the heat and exhaustion prior to being found by Border Patrol agents.

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Maciel-Ramos had entered a plea of guilty on August 29, 2002, to a three-count indictment charging him with bringing in of illegal aliens for commercial advantage and private financial gain.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the United States Border Patrol.

The prosecution was handled by Claire K. Lefkowitz, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-02-1078-TUC-JMR(CRP)
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