



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CHILD SMUGGLER OF 1- AND 8 YEAR-OLD BOYS SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR 15 MONTHS

TUCSON, Ariz. – Oscar Adrian Moreno-Acosta, 20, of Nogales, Ariz., was sentenced today to 15 months in federal prison by U.S. District Judge David S. Doty. Moreno-Acosta pleaded guilty on January 5, 2009, to Conspiracy to Transport Illegal Aliens for Profit.

Moreno-Acosta attempted to enter the U.S. on October 18, 2008, at the Nogales Port of Entry accompanied by two boys ages one and eight. Moreno-Acosta did not have legal documentation allowing his entry into the U.S. He and the two boys were then escorted to passport control for processing.

During questioning, Moreno-Acosta stated that he arrived in Nogales, Sonora, about four days earlier and had planned to be smuggled into the United States by a man named Chuy. Moreno-Acosta had met Chuy at a hotel in Mexico where the smuggler had been with two young boys. Chuy had originally told Moreno-Acosta that it would cost \$1,000 to be smuggled into the United States, but that there was a possibility that the fee could be reduced if he took the two boys into the U.S. Moreno-Acosta agreed and was then instructed that once he crossed the border he was to give the children to a woman in a white vehicle at the bus station in Nogales, Arizona. Moreno-Acosta stated that he did not know the children nor their parents. His ultimate goal was to travel to Phoenix to live and to work.

The smuggled children were turned over to the custody of the Mexican Consulate who then turned them over to the Mexican Department of Family Services (the Mexican equivalent of U.S. Child Protective Services) to be reunited with their parents. The boys were not related. They were determined to be Mexican Citizens with no legal documents allowing them to be in the United States.

The investigation in this case was conducted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The prosecution was handled by Raquel Arellano, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson.

CASE NUMBER: CR-08-01401-TUC-FRZ
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