



PRESS RELEASE
*Office of the United States Attorney
Middle District of Florida*

PAUL I. PEREZ
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

400 North Tampa Street
Suite 3200
Tampa, Florida 33602
813/274-6000
813/274-6300 (Fax)

300 North Hogan Street
Suite 700
Jacksonville, Florida 32201
904/301-6300
904/301-6310 (Fax)

80 North Hughey Avenue,
Room 201
Orlando, Florida 32801
407/648-7500
407/648-7643 (Fax)

2110 First Street,
Suite 3-137
Fort Myers, Florida 33901
239/461-2200
239/461-2219 (fax)

Contact: Steve Cole ♦ Public Affairs Specialist ♦ 813/274-6352

For Immediate Release

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SPIDER SENDER SENTENCED

Tampa, FL - U.S. District Judge James S. Moody, Jr., yesterday sentenced JOHN A. GALARZA to two years' probation, including serving 90 days in a community sanctions center, completing an anger management course, and completing 200 hours of community service with an animal shelter, for mailing a live poisonous spider to his ex-girlfriend. GALARZA had entered a plea of guilty to the felony offense on August 29, 2003.

According to court documents, GALARZA mailed a package containing a live poisonous tarantula spider, an item which is considered nonmailable matter by law, from a United States Post Office in Brandon, Florida to a Tampa, Florida woman on June 30, 2003. The defendant admitted that he did so with the intent to kill or injure the woman.

In addition to the above sentence, GALARZA was ordered not to approach within 300 feet of the victim during the course of his probation.

The case was investigated by United States Postal Service Inspectors and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Donald L. Hansen, Special Prosecutions Section, Tampa Division.