



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NACOGDOCHES MAN ADMITS TO SMUGGLING ALIENS

(Tyler, Texas) A Nacogdoches man has pleaded guilty to transporting illegal aliens for private financial gain. **SAUL BARRERA-CRUZ a/k/a "Petraça"**, 35, pleaded guilty to Conspiracy to Transport Illegal Aliens in Violation of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324.

According to information presented in court, Cruz admitted to transporting more than 100 aliens. Cruz was indicted with nine other individuals in April, 2004, following an eighteen month investigation of alien smuggling in the Eastern District of Texas.

Cruz faces a maximum sentence of up to 10 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000. United States Magistrate Judge Harry McKee did not set a sentencing date at this time.

This case is being investigated by the United States Border Patrol and the Texas Department of Public Safety-Narcotics Division. Assistant U.S. Attorney Reynaldo P. Morin is prosecuting the case.

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