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DEL RIO MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ATTEMPTED MURDER OF A FEDERAL OFFICER

(DEL RIO, TEXAS) United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that 28-year-old **REYMUNDO AVALOS, III**, of Del Rio faces up to 40 years in federal prison after pleading guilty to injuring a United States Customs officer while attempting to flee to Mexico.

Appearing before United States District Judge Alia Ludlum, Avalos pled guilty to one count of attempted murder, two counts of aggravated assault on a federal officer, and one count of exportation of a stolen motor vehicle.

On June 30, 2002, after being placed under arrest by Del Rio Police officers for violating a protective order, Avalos managed to escape by stealing the officer's patrol car. While attempting to enter Mexico at the Del Rio International Bridge, Avalos struck a United States Customs officer with the stolen patrol car. As a result, the officer suffered serious bodily injury.

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton commended the investigative efforts of the United States Customs Service and Federal Bureau of Investigation together with the Del Rio Police Department in bringing Avalos to justice. Sutton also commended District Attorney Fred Hernandez for his assistance in the case as well as authorities in Mexico for their cooperation in apprehending Avalos and turning him over to U.S. authorities. Assistant United States Attorneys Robert Cadena, Robert Arrambide and Sam Ponder are prosecuting this case on behalf of the government.

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