



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

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**MEXICAN NATIONALS OPERATING A BROTHEL PLEAD GUILTY TO CHARGES  
OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced today that 32 year-old Maricela Martinez-Uresti, a.k.a. Maricela Uresti-Martinez pled guilty to charges set out in a four count indictment which charges her with Sex Trafficking of Children, Transportation of Minors for Sexual Activity, Conspiracy to Smuggle, Transport and Harbor Illegal Aliens and Importation of Aliens for Immoral Purposes. Her co-defendant, 19 year-old Violeta Juanita De Hoyos-Hernandez pled guilty to Conspiracy to Smuggle, Transport and Harbor Illegal Aliens for Profit. Martinez-Uresti faces up to 55 years in federal prison and a \$1,000,000 fine, while De Hoyos-Hernandez faces up to 10 years and a \$250,000 fine. The sentencing date has not been set.

Had this case proceeded to trial, the government was prepared to prove that beginning in November 2002 and continuing through May 2003, the defendants participated in a conspiracy to recruit and smuggle minor female aliens from Mexico into the United States for financial gain.

Defendant Martinez-Uresti executed employment contracts in Mexico with minor females and their parents where she falsely represented that the minor females would be obligated to work for one year in Defendant's restaurant to repay the \$1500 smuggling fee. Once the girls reached Austin, they were held against their will and forced to engage in prostitution to repay the smuggling fee. The minor aliens told investigators that the Defendants threatened to kill them if they refused to follow their instructions.

The defendants were arrested by the Austin Police Department on May 14, 2003. The Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement joined the investigation after the arrest. Both defendants have been in custody since their arrest. Assistant United States Attorney Gerald Carruth is prosecuting the case for the government.

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