



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

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

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Shana Jones, Special Assistant  
Daryl Fields, Public Information Officer  
(210) 384-7440

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**MEXICAN NATIONAL SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR SMUGGLING COCAINE**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced that in Del Rio yesterday, 54-year-old Israel Brito of Morelos, Mexico, was sentenced to 30 years in federal prison for smuggling cocaine into the United States. In addition to the prison term, United States District Judge Alia Ludlum ordered the forfeiture to the Government of drug distribution proceeds including \$1 million in cash and one California property located at 4298 Gird Avenue, Chino Hills, California.

In March of last year, Brito pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to import cocaine into the United States arising out of an incident occurring on September 28, 2003, whereby individuals working on behalf of the Brito organization attempted to import more than 28 kilograms of cocaine from Ciudad Acuna, Mexico, through the Del Rio Port of Entry into the United States. Authorities estimate that from September 2003 to February 2007, the Brito organization was responsible for smuggling over 150 kilograms of cocaine into the United States from Mexico for further distribution.

Brito's nephew and co-defendant, 39-year-old Cesar Brito of Orange, California, remains in federal custody after pleading guilty on October 30, 2007, to conspiracy to import cocaine. Cesar's role in the organization included recruiting drivers to smuggle cocaine into the United States. Cesar Brito, who faces between ten years and life imprisonment, is scheduled to be sentenced on April 20, 2009, before Judge Ludlum.

This case was investigated by agents with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Assistant United States Attorneys Jeremy Sibert and Rick Bennett are prosecuting this case on behalf of the Government.

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