



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
10 W. JACKSON BLVD.
CHICAGO, IL 60604

NEWS RELEASE

Monday, October 7, 2002

Mexican National Sentenced to 18 Months for Human Smuggling

Chicago, IL - Brian R. Perryman, District Director for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in Chicago, together with Jan Paul Miller, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, announced the sentencing Friday of a Mexican national for smuggling eight illegal aliens in a cramped compartment built into the bed of his truck.

Vicente Calvillo-Espinosa, age 37, is a legal permanent resident from Mexico who resides in Tonasket, Washington. On the morning of February 21, 2002, the Quad Cities Metropolitan Enforcement Group, an area police drug task force, observed Calvillo-Espinosa as a Citgo gas station in Moline, Illinois. A search of the vehicle revealed the bed of the 1992 Chevrolet pickup truck contained a wooden compartment underneath a tarp. Inside the compartment were eight male illegal aliens from Mexico. Four others, three adults and one juvenile, were riding behind the drivers seat. During the search of the vehicle \$7,570.00 was also seized from the center console of the vehicle. Agents with the INS were subsequently called to assist in the case.

Calvillo-Espinosa pled guilty to the smuggling charge on July 12, 2002. He admitted he was paid at least \$3,000 in Arizona to smuggle illegal aliens to Chicago. All eight individuals were crammed into a space measuring only 78 inches deep by 63 inches wide and 11 ½ inches high for the entire 36-hour trip from Phoenix, Arizona to Moline, Illinois.

Chief U.S. District Judge Joe Billy McDade sentenced Calvillo-Espinosa Friday to 18 months in prison. After serving his prison sentence Calvillo-Espinosa will be turned over the INS and be placed into deportation proceedings.

“One of the enforcement priorities for the INS is to combat the organized smuggling of illegal aliens into the United States,” said Brian R. Perryman. “This is not simply an issue of the trafficking of illegal aliens, but a matter of smugglers endangering the lives of their human cargo by subjecting them to long hours in constricted places.”

U.S. Attorney Jan Paul Miller said, “The government sought and received an enhanced sentence in this case based on the defendant’s intentional disregard and inhumane treatment of his fellow man for profit.”

Note: Pictures of Calvillo-Espinosa and the inside of the wooden compartment where the smuggled aliens were found are available.