



NEWS RELEASE

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MARCH 28, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NINE DEFENDANTS SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES, POSSESSION OF FALSE SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that nine defendants were sentenced in federal court today for being illegal aliens in the United States.

The nine Mexico residents, who formerly worked at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach, Mo., were sentenced in federal court by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this morning in Jefferson City.

Galdino Alvarez-Vargas, 20, Eugenia Ambrosio-Almaraz, 28, Salomon Hernandez-Ruiz, 37, Felix Perales-Vazquez, 39, Raul Mendoza-Santiago, 20, Rufino Hernandez-Ruiz, 34, Victor Reyes-Luna, 41, and Luis Raymundo Matus-Matus, 35, each were sentenced to time served (143 days) and are to be immediately deported from the United States, Graves said.

Cleofas Ambrocia-Pacheco, 36, was sentenced to six months in federal prison without parole because he already had been deported on a previous occasion in 1995.

All defendants were initially charged in separate indictments returned by a federal grand jury on Feb. 7, 2003, in Jefferson City. Each of the defendants pleaded guilty to charges contained in the indictments on March 24, 2003.

Alvarez-Vargas, Ambrocia-Pacheco, Ambrosio-Almaraz, Hernandez-Ruiz, Perales-Vazquez, Mendoza-Santiago, Hernandez-Ruiz, Reyes-Luna, and Matus-Matus pleaded guilty to charges of illegally entering the United States and possessing false identification documents, including counterfeit resident alien cards and social security cards, in Camden County, Mo., on Nov. 6, 2002.

The co-defendants were initially arrested following the execution of a search warrant on

Nov. 6, 2002, at Tan-Tar-A Resort, located at 6521 White Oak Circle in Osage Beach.

The cases were prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Tony Gonzalez and Assistant U.S. Attorney Jim Lynn. The cases were investigated by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Internal Revenue Service, the Social Security Administration, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow