



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAN CHARGED WITH SMUGGLING 12 ILLEGAL ALIENS WITHIN THE UNITED STATES

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a United States citizen was charged in federal court today with illegally transporting illegal aliens within the United States.

Raul Enriquez, 27, of Phoenix, Ariz., was charged this afternoon in a criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Springfield. The criminal complaint alleges that **Enriquez** illegally transported an illegal alien within the United States by means of a vehicle for the purpose of private financial gain.

An affidavit filed in support of the criminal complaint states that law enforcement officers stopped a 1998 Chevrolet Suburban for a traffic violation on Dec. 8, 2003. Upon inspecting the vehicle, the affidavit states, a law enforcement officer observed what he believed to be several undocumented aliens in the vehicle.

Enriquez and a total of 12 undocumented aliens were then taken into custody. The affidavit alleges that **Enriquez** was transporting the undocumented aliens from Phoenix, Ariz., to Springfield, and that he was compensated for driving the vehicle.

Graves cautioned that the charge contained in the complaint is simply an accusation, and is not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charge must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This was investigated by the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

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