



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **CITIZEN OF MEXICO CHARGED WITH TRANSPORTING FIVE ILLEGAL ALIENS**

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

**Hermilo Estrada**, 33, of Mexico, is charged with transporting five Mexicans who illegally entered the United States, according to the criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Springfield.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the criminal complaint, a Missouri State Highway Patrol trooper stopped the 1989 Chevrolet Prizm driven by **Estrada** as it was traveling eastbound on Interstate I-44 in Jasper County, Mo., on April 11, 2003. **Estrada**, who along with the five passengers is allegedly in the United States illegally, told law enforcement officials he was transporting the group from Phoenix, Ariz. to St. Louis, Mo., according to the affidavit.

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

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

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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

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