



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEXICAN CITIZEN INDICTED FOR TRANSPORTING ILLEGAL ALIENS FOLLOWING FATAL CRASH NEAR JOPLIN

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Mexican citizen was indicted by a federal grand jury today for illegally transporting aliens within the United States. The indictment follows a fatality accident on Interstate 44 near Joplin, Mo., on Feb. 12, 2003, in which two Mexican citizens were killed and 10 more were taken to local hospitals with injuries.

Horacio Flores-Flores, 28, a citizen of Mexico, was charged in a four-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury meeting in Springfield. That indictment replaces a federal criminal complaint that was filed on Feb. 18, 2003.

Each of the four counts of the federal indictment alleges that **Flores-Flores** transported a Mexican citizen, whom he knew to be in the United States illegally, for the purpose of private financial gain.

On Feb. 12, 2003, Graves explained, 12 Mexican citizens – who were later determined to be undocumented aliens in the United States illegally – were involved in a fatality accident when the 1990 Chevrolet Astro van in which they were riding crashed on Interstate 44 near Joplin.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the federal criminal complaint, **Flores-Flores** was transporting the 11 undocumented aliens from Phoenix, Ariz. to Grand Rapids, Mich., when the accident occurred. **Flores-Flores** was allegedly going to be paid \$125 per person, a total of \$1,375, upon arrival in Grand Rapids, in addition to \$300 for gas and \$100 for food that he had been provided. According to another affidavit filed with the court, at the time of the accident **Flores-Flores** was having one of the undocumented aliens drive the van.

Graves cautioned that the charge contained in the indictment 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.

The case was investigated by the Immigration and Naturalization Service 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