



NEWS RELEASE

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OCTOBER 10, 2003
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEXICAN NATIONAL PLEADS GUILTY TO ILLEGAL RE-ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Mexican national pleaded guilty today to illegally re-entering the United States after having been previously deported.

Martin Garcia-Lopez, 46, of Mexico, pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge James C. England this morning in Springfield.

By pleading guilty, **Garcia-Lopez** admitted that he was found in Webster County, Mo., on July 21, 2003, after having been deported from the United States. **Garcia-Lopez** was previously deported from the United States after being convicted of felony stealing.

Garcia-Lopez was originally charged in a federal criminal complaint filed on Aug. 19, 2003, in Springfield. The criminal complaint was later replaced by an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Sept. 10, 2003, in Springfield.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the criminal complaint, **Garcia-Lopez** was deported from the United States on Dec. 13, 1994, and Sept. 24, 1997, from Otay Mesa, Calif., and Hidalgo, Texas, respectively.

As a result of pleading guilty, **Garcia-Lopez** may be subject to a sentence of up to 20 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine of up to \$250,000. His sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case was investigated by the Bureau of 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