



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO MEXICANS, ONE INDIANA WOMAN INDICTED FOR TRANSPORTING ILLEGAL ALIENS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that two Mexicans and an Indiana woman were indicted by a federal grand jury today for illegally transporting aliens within the United States.

Nery Lopez-Mendez, 24, and **Rodrigo Mendez-Lopez**, 33, both citizens of Mexico, and **Jennifer M. Frazee**, 30, of Seymour, Indiana, were charged in a four-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury meeting in Springfield.

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

Today's indictment replaces federal criminal complaints filed against **Lopez-Mendez** and **Mendez-Lopez**. According to an affidavit filed in support of those complaints, **Frazee** was driving a 1995 Dodge Ram carrying 12 undocumented aliens from Mexico when they were apprehended while traveling on Interstate 44 on Jan. 30, 2003. The undocumented aliens, the affidavit says, were being transported from Phoenix, Ariz., to Seymour, Ind. **Frazee** was allegedly paid \$300 up front with the promise of \$1,200 more upon delivery of the aliens, Graves said.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges 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.

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