



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

MARCH 5, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NICARAGUAN MAN, MEXICAN MAN INDICTED FOR ILLEGAL RE-ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Nicaraguan man and a Mexican man were indicted by a federal grand jury today, in separate and unrelated cases, for illegally re-entering the United States.

* **Melvin Mendez-Valdivia**, 31, of Nicaragua, was charged in a one-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury meeting in Springfield. Today's indictment replaces a federal criminal complaint filed against **Mendez-Valdivia** on Feb. 13, 2003.

The federal indictment alleges that **Mendez-Valdivia** was unlawfully in Greene County, Mo., on Feb. 6, 2003. **Mendez-Valdivia** was deported from the United States in 1997 subsequent to a felony conviction for auto theft.

* **Pedro Soriano-Garcia**, 34, of Mexico, was charged in a one-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury meeting in Springfield. Today's indictment replaces a federal criminal complaint that had been filed against **Soriano-Garcia**.

The federal indictment alleges that **Soriano-Garcia** was unlawfully in Greene County, Mo., on Feb. 20, 2003. **Soriano-Garcia** has twice been deported from the United States.

Graves cautioned that the charge contained in the indictments 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.

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