



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **MEXICAN CITIZEN INDICTED FOR BEING AN ILLEGAL ALIEN IN POSSESSION OF A FIREARM, USING FALSE ID**

**JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Mexican living in California, Mo., was indicted today by a federal grand jury on charges related to being an illegal alien in possession of a firearm, and using false identification documents.

**Ignacio Tapia-Leon**, 38, of California, Mo., was charged in a three-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury meeting in Jefferson City. **Tapia-Leon** is a citizen of Mexico.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Tapia-Leon**, an alien illegally and unlawfully in the United States, was in possession of a Llama .45 caliber pistol on July 30, 2002, in California, Mo.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Tapia-Leon** presented a false Social Security number on May 22, 2000, in Moniteau County in order to obtain employment.

Count Three of the federal indictment alleges that **Tapia-Leon** was in possession of a counterfeit Resident Alien Card, which he knew to be forged, on May 22, 2000, in Moniteau County, in order to obtain employment.

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 is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Lawrence E. Miller. The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the Moniteau County Sheriff's Department and the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

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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  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)