



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEXICAN CITIZEN SENTENCED FOR ILLEGALLY RE-ENTERING THE UNITED STATES

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Mexican citizen was sentenced in federal court today for being an illegal alien in the United States.

Ignacio Vasquez-Lopez, 36, of Mexico, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this morning to three years and five months in federal prison without parole.

On Nov. 19, 2002, **Vasquez-Lopez** pleaded guilty to illegally re-entering the United States after having been deported from the country on June 28, 1996 and after having an aggravated felony conviction on Nov. 7, 1986, for first degree burglary in Los Angeles, Calif. By pleading guilty, **Vasquez-Lopez** admitted that he was found again in the United States on July 26, 2002, in Columbia, Mo.

Vasquez-Lopez was originally charged with being an illegal alien by a grand jury meeting on Aug. 23, 2002, in Jefferson City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jim Lynn. It was investigated by the Columbia, Mo., Police Department and the U.S. 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