

Department of Justice

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TWO MEXICAN CITIZENS SENTENCED FOR MANUFACTURING FRAUDULENT IDENTITY DOCUMENTS IN SONOMA COUNTY

SAN FRANCISCO – United States District Court Judge William H. Alsup sentenced two Mexican citizens for manufacturing and selling fraudulent identity documents to illegal aliens in California's Sonoma county, United States Attorney Melinda Haag announced. On Dec. 13, 2011, Oscar Flores, 31, was sentenced to 30 months in prison. Yesterday, Jonathan Juarez-Hernandez, 22, was sentenced to 22 months in prison.

Both defendants pled guilty to violations of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1028(a)(1), (2) and (5). The defendants admitted to producing and selling fraudulent identity documents, including permanent residency cards and social security cards, to illegal aliens in Sonoma county. According to court documents, they produced the fraudulent documents by using modern technology and forged U.S. government templates.

Patricia Spaletta is the Special Assistant U.S. Attorney who is prosecuting the case with the assistance of Rania Ghawi. The prosecution is the result of a six-month investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations, Document and Benefit Fraud Task Force.

Co-defendant Olivia Hernandez remains a fugitive. She is believed to be residing in Mexico.

Further Information:

Case #: CR 11-00274 WHA

A copy of this press release may be found on the U.S. Attorney's Office's website at www.usdoj.gov/usao/can.

Electronic court filings and further procedural and docket information are available at https://ecf.cand.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/login.pl.

Judges' calendars with schedules for upcoming court hearings can be viewed on the court's website at www.cand.uscourts.gov.

All press inquiries to the U.S. Attorney's Office should be directed to Jack Gillund at (415) 436-6599 or by e-mail at <u>Jack.Gillund@usdoj.gov</u>.

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