

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA San Diego, California

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - July 7, 2008

United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced that Candido Palacios was sentenced today in federal court in San Diego by the Honorable Thomas J. Whelan to serve ten months in prison based on Palacios' conviction for Smuggling, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 545, and Unlawful Importation of Wildlife, a violation of the Lacey Act, Title 18 United States Code, Section 3372. Judge Whelan also ordered that Palacios serve a two-year term of supervised release following the completion of his prison term. According to court records, Palacios pled guilty on April 7, 2008 to illegally importing forty-four birds.

According to court records, on June 10, 1999, Palacios and his wife, Araceli Urias-Palacios, and their minor child attempted entry into the United States through the Otay Mesa Port of Entry. Although all parties claimed to have nothing to declare, inspectors heard birds screeching. A search revealed 40 Conures in a bag and 4 yellow-headed Amazon parrots in the vehicle's center console. Palacios admitted that he attempted to smuggle the birds into the United States to avoid quarantine requirements and intended to take them to

Los Angeles to sell. At the time, the wholesale value of the birds was approximately \$7200. Judge Whelan ordered Araceli Urias-Palacios to serve two-years probation.

DEFENDANTS

Case No. 99cr2008 W

Candido Palacios
Araceli Urias-Palacios

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Title 18, United States Code, Section 545 - Smuggling
Title 16, United States Code, Section 3372 – Unlawful importation of Wildlife

INVESTIGATING AGENCIES

Immigration and Customs Enforcement
United States Fish and Wildlife