



Department of Justice

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COLUMBUS RESIDENT SENTENCED TO 41 MONTHS IMPRISONMENT FOR ILLEGALLY RE-ENTERING THE UNITED STATES AFTER DEPORTATION

COLUMBUS – Raul Villa-Guerra, 28, a Mexican citizen living in Columbus, was sentenced in United States District Court here today to 41 months imprisonment for illegally re-entering the United States after he had been deported for drug trafficking.

Carter M. Stewart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, and Rebecca Adducci, Field Office Director, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Detention and Removal Operations (DRO), announced the sentence handed down today by U.S. District Judge Gregory L. Frost.

According to court documents, Villa-Guerra illegally came to the United States as a young man. When he was 18, he was convicted in U.S. District Court in New Mexico for possession with intent to distribute heroin and sentenced to 27 months imprisonment. Upon his release from prison in 2001, he was deported back to Mexico and barred from ever returning to the United States.

He was arrested under the name Daniel Ortiz Soto in October 2009 in Columbus on felony charges of complicity trafficking in heroin. A fingerprint check determined that Soto was really Villa-Guerra. He pleaded guilty on January 7, 2010 to one count of illegal re-entry to the United States.

Villa-Guerra will be deported after serving his prison sentence.

Stewart commended the investigation by ICE agents, as well as Assistant U.S. Attorney Deborah A. Solove, who prosecuted the case.

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