



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
VAL VERDE, KINNEY & TERRELL
COUNTIES, TEXAS

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PRESS RELEASE

BRACKETVILLE, TX. On October 18, 2023 a Kinney County jury delivered a “Guilty” verdict in the case of State of Texas v. Brian Carrillo Ramirez to a case presented by the 63rd Judicial District Attorney’s Office BPU Supervising Attorney Amanda Poole.

District Judge Roland Andrade (63rd Judicial District) sentenced Ramirez to 10 years confinement. Immediately following sentencing, Ramirez was taken into custody to begin his sentence. Ramirez, 18, stood accused of violating Texas law by transporting individuals by motor vehicle with intent to conceal them from law enforcement and evading arrest with a motor vehicle. The offenses are second and third-degree felonies, respectively.

The crime was committed on September 7, 2022. On that day Kinney County Sheriff’s Deputies Daniel Molinar and Elizabeth Aguirre attempted to stop a Cadillac SUV traveling on Ranch Road 334 at approximately 7:30 in the morning. When Deputies Molinar and Aguirre attempted to stop the vehicle, it drove away at high speed, traveling for approximately three miles before stopping abruptly. In addition to Ramirez who was driving, the vehicle contained two undocumented aliens, Elbia Yulisa Machado, a Honduran national, and Marieli Araceli Gutierrez Ruiz, a Mexican national, who were both found lying down in the cargo area. Ramirez bailed out of the vehicle but was quickly apprehended by a US Border Patrol Agent who was assisting at the scene. Two unknown males also bailed out and fled into the brush but were not apprehended.

Following the close of evidence, BPU Prosecutor Poole spoke to the jury, emphasizing that the State presented everything they could need to find the defendant guilty, including a video of the evading where they were practically “in the lap” of Deputy Molinar to see the chase.

The jury retired to deliberate, returning less than thirty minutes later with a unanimous verdict of guilty. Judge Andrade thanked the jury and then proceeded to the punishment phase of the trial.

ADA Poole was the lead prosecutor and was assisted at trial by District Attorney Suzanne West, BPU Attorneys Tabytha “Toby” Kuykendahl and Hilary Showers, and Assistant District Attorney-Border Prosecution Supervisor Eric Bayne. BPU Investigator Tom Wylie was the lead investigator on the case.

Since inception of OLS and the changes in border security, thousands of smugglings of persons cases have worked their way through this rural district, but this is the first jury trial as of yet. There are thousands still to come.

The 63rd Judicial District Attorney's Border Prosecution Unit, supported by funding for Border Prosecution Unit grants from Governor Abbott's Border Safety Programs, is a collaborative initiative of District Attorney's Offices who are dedicated to prosecuting crimes with a nexus to the US-Mexico border. The three-county district's cases with border nexus include thousands of human smuggling and evading, child pornography and sexual abuse, drug offenses, serious property crimes, assaults, and homicides.

The District Attorney's message is one of appreciation to the jury for their thoughtful deliberations and one of hope that this verdict will convey state wide to all persons who would attempt to conceal and transport lawbreakers that smuggling persons and evading law enforcement in Kinney County, Texas (and the rest of the 63rd Judicial District) is off limits.

The District Attorney would also extend thanks to the Kinney County Sheriff's Office and the United States Border Patrol for their outstanding efforts to bring Ramirez to justice. Seeing that justice is served is truly a team effort and we appreciate our teammates every day as we protect our communities.