



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
Southern District of Florida
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NEWS RELEASE:

**ICE AGENT INDICTED
IN KICKBACK, OBSTRUCTION SCHEME**

R. Alexander Acosta, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida, and Steven Mocsary, Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Office of Professional Responsibility, and Donald Balberchak, Special Agent in Charge, Department of Homeland Security, Office of the Inspector General, announced today that defendant **Pedro Cintron**, 52, of Weston, FL, was indicted on charges of receiving a gratuity by a public official, in violation of Title 18, U.S.C. § 201(c)(1)(B) (Counts 1, 3, 5, and 7); theft by government official, in violation of Title 18 U.S.C. § 654 (Counts 2, 4, 6, and 8); disclosure of confidential information, in violation of Title 18 U.S.C. § 1905 (Counts 9 and 10); false statement, in violation of Title 18 U.S.C. § 1001 (Counts 12 and 13); and obstruction of justice, in violation of Title 18 U.S.C. § 1503 (Count 14).

According to Indictment, defendant Cintron was employed as a Special Agent with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Office of Investigations ("ICE-OI"), and was assigned to the Miami office. Cintron was assigned to an investigative group that focused on human smuggling organizations based domestically and internationally.

According to the allegations, in 2004, Cintron was the controlling agent of a confidential informant ("CI"), who provided significant information regarding human trafficking organizations. As part of on-going investigations, the CI agreed to introduce Cintron to members of the various human smuggling organizations. ICE agreed to financially compensate the CI for his services. As the alien smuggling investigations progressed, however, Cintron asked the CI for certain financial favors. For example, in late 2004, Cintron instructed the CI to deliver \$300 to Cintron's girlfriend in Ecuador. In addition, the CI gave Cintron a gold bracelet valued at \$800, and obtained cellular telephones for Cintron's girlfriend in Ecuador, as requested by Cintron. The source of funds for the gifts and money were the funds the CI received from his official activities on behalf of ICE- OI.

From late 2004 until January 2006, Cintron allegedly received a 10% commission based on the \$125,000 total payment he received for his undercover work with ICE-OI. Based on the receipt of this kickback, Cintron is charged in Counts 1 through 8 with receiving a gratuity by a public official and theft by a government official.

The Indictment also relates Cintron's involvement with an individual identified as Y.F., a Chinese National residing in Ecuador. In October 2004, Cintron and others allegedly smuggled aliens into the U.S. on behalf of Y.F. and others. Thereafter, Y.F. delivered three more aliens to Cintron and others to be smuggled into the United States. Following the second smuggling venture, Y.F. continued to call Cintron in an effort to smuggle more aliens into the U.S. In early December 2005, Cintron solicited and accepted \$12,000 from Y.F. as a down payment for the smuggling of four additional individuals into the U.S. Cintron did not document this payment to ICE-OI in any report of investigation.

In addition, the investigation further revealed that Cintron had disclosed confidential information to an unauthorized individual. In particular, Cintron disclosed that the CI worked as an informant with ICE and that Y.F. was wanted on pending federal charges. These events give rise to the charges contained in Counts 9 and 10 of the Indictment, charging Cintron with the unauthorized disclosure of confidential information acquired in the course of his employment and official duties with ICE. Lastly, Cintron is charged with misleading other ICE investigators on three occasions concerning the CI's contact with Y.F. while Y.F. was a federal fugitive. This conduct gives rise to Counts 11 through 13, making a false statement, and Count 14, obstruction of justice.

If convicted of these charges, the defendant faces a maximum sentence of 57 years' imprisonment on all counts.

This case was investigated by agents from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Office of Professional Responsibility, and the Department of Homeland Security, Office of the Inspector General, Miami Division. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Christopher Clark.

A copy of this press release may be found on the website of the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida at www.usdoj.gov/usao/fls. Related court documents and information may be found on the website of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida at www.flsd.uscourts.gov or on <http://pacer.flsd.uscourts.gov>.