



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FORMER BORDER PATROL AGENT INDICTED FOR HARBORING AN ILLEGAL ALIEN

TUCSON -- The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on March 9, 2005, a federal grand jury sitting in Tucson, returned a one count indictment against Christopher E. Bemis, 05/30/81, formerly of Sierra Vista, Arizona.

The indictment alleges that the Bemis harbored an illegal alien. Bemis was formerly a member of the U.S. Border Patrol. Bemis surrendered to the Office of the Inspector General on February 9, 2005, and was released on his own recognizance.

The federal indictment charges Bemis with violating Title 8 of the United States Code, Section 1324 (a)(1)(A)(iii).

A conviction for 1324(a)(1)(A)(iii) under the circumstances alleged in the indictment carries a maximum penalty of 5 year(s), a \$250,000 fine or both.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted Office of the Inspector General for the Department of Homeland Security.

The prosecution is being handled by Cynthia R. Wood, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson.