

AROUND THE NATION;

Salvadoran Is Sentenced In Alien Smuggling Case

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Body

A 22-year-old Salvadoran was sentenced today to seven years in prison after his conviction on charges of smuggling aliens in connection with an attempt to enter the country last summer that ended in the deaths of 13 of his countrymen in the Arizona desert.

Federal District Judge James A. Walsh sentenced Santos Flores Elias of San Salvador to a five-year term for conspiracy plus concurrent two-year terms for each of seven counts of smuggling aliens. Mr. Flores was found guilty in a jury trial last month.

Federal District Judge James Walsh sentences Santos Flores to seven year prison term for his conviction in alien-smuggling case

According to Arthur J. Hutton, Mr. Flores's attorney, the conviction will be appealed on the ground that the trial should have been moved from Tucson because of extensive pretrial news coverage of incident, and because some jurors knew of the case before the trial began.

Prosecutors had charged that Mr. Flores helped the man they identified as the ringleader of the smuggling attempt, Carlos Rivera, to bring a group of 40 Salvadoran refugees across the Mexican border into the 516-acre Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in Arizona.

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Person: JAMES T WALSH (76%)

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