

## **National Briefing Southwest: Texas: Sentencing In Smuggling Deaths**

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**Byline:** By STEVE BARNES (NYT)

### **Body**

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A woman who pleaded guilty to directing a **smuggling** operation in which 19 illegal immigrants died was **sentenced** to 17 years in prison on Monday. The punishment for the woman, Karla Patricia Chavez Joya, 28, was less than the life term prosecutors requested but greater than that recommended under federal **sentencing** guidelines. The 19 people who died were among 74 illegal immigrants abandoned in a locked tractor-trailer near Victoria in 2003. The authorities said temperatures inside the vehicle exceeded 170 degrees. Thirteen other defendants were charged in the case, including the driver, against whom the government is seeking the **death** penalty. STEVE BARNES (NYT)

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