



## PRESS RELEASE

# Three CBP Officers Indicted for Allowing Undocumented Individuals to Enter the U.S. Through Their Inspection Lanes; Two Accused of Taking Bribes

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

### For Immediate Release

U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of California

[Kelly.Thornton@usdoj.gov](mailto:Kelly.Thornton@usdoj.gov)

SAN DIEGO – U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers Farlis Almonte, Ricardo Rodriguez and Kairy Stephania Quiñonez are charged in an indictment with allowing vehicles with undocumented individuals to pass through their lanes into the U.S. without inspection while working at the San Ysidro Port of Entry.

The indictment alleges that Almonte, Rodriguez, and Quiñonez revealed their lane assignments and hours they were scheduled to work the primary inspection booths at the San Ysidro Port of Entry so that co-conspirators would know when it was safe to transport undocumented individuals across the border with impunity - sometimes using code words to gain admittance.

According to the indictment, the defendants falsely reported in the Transportation Enforcement Communications System – a database known as “TECS” that is used by CBP officers - the number of occupants in co-conspirators’ vehicles to conceal the fact that those vehicles contained undocumented individuals.

Almonte and Rodriguez are also charged with receipt of bribes by a public official. The indictment alleges that in exchange for money, they failed to enforce the immigration laws of the United States by allowing vehicles with undocumented immigrants to enter the United States.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Francisco Nagel and Bianca Calderon-Peñaloza.

## **DEFENDANTS**

### **Case Number 25-CR-1502**

Farlis Almonte	Age: 38	San Diego, California
Ricardo Rodriguez	Age: 34	Tijuana, Mexico
Kairy Stephania Quiñonez	Age: 31	Imperial Beach, California

## **SUMMARY OF CHARGE**

Conspiracy to Bring in Aliens for Financial Gain – Title 18, U.S.C., Section 371 and Title 8, U.S.C. Section 1324(a)(2)(B)(ii)

Maximum Penalty: Five years in prison

Bringing in Aliens for Financial Gain, Aiding and Abetting - Title 8, U.S.C. Section 1324(a)(2)(B) (ii) and Title 18, U.S.C. Section 2

Maximum Penalty: Fifteen years in prison with a five-year mandatory minimum

Receipt of Bribes by Public Official - Title 18, U.S.C., Section 201(b)(2)(C)

Maximum Penalty: Fifteen years in prison

## **INVESTIGATING AGENCIES**

Department of Homeland Security – Office of Inspector General

Homeland Security Investigations

Drug Enforcement Administration

U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s Office of Field Operations

## United States Border Patrol

\*The charges and allegations contained in an indictment or complaint are merely accusations, and the defendants are considered innocent unless and until proven guilty.

This case is part of Operation Take Back America, a nationwide initiative that marshals the full resources of the Department of Justice to repel the invasion of illegal immigration, achieve the total elimination of cartels and transnational criminal organizations (TCOs), and protect our communities from the perpetrators of violent crime. Operation Take Back America streamlines efforts and resources from the Department's Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETFs) and Project Safe Neighborhood (PSN).

### Contact

Kelly Thornton, Director of Media Relations

*Updated May 6, 2025*

### Topics

OPERATION TAKE BACK AMERICA

HUMAN SMUGGLING

IMMIGRATION

PUBLIC CORRUPTION

### Component

[USAO - California, Southern](#)

Press Release Number: CAS25-0506-Almonte

## Related Content

---

**PRESS RELEASE**

**U.S. Attorney's Office Filed 84 Border-Related Cases This Week**

SAN DIEGO – Federal prosecutors in the Southern District of California filed 84 border-related cases this week, including charges of bringing in aliens for financial gain, reentering the U.S. after...

February 20, 2026

**PRESS RELEASE**

**U.S. Attorney's Office Filed 111 Border-Related Cases This Week**

SAN DIEGO – Federal prosecutors in the Southern District of California filed 111 border-related cases this week, including charges of bringing in aliens for financial gain, reentering the U.S. after...

February 6, 2026

**PRESS RELEASE**

**U.S. Attorney's Office Filed 86 Border-Related Cases This Week**

SAN DIEGO – Federal prosecutors in the Southern District of California filed 86 border-related cases this week, including charges of bringing in aliens for financial gain, reentering the U.S. after...

January 30, 2026



**Main Office:**

**Federal Office Building**

**880 Front Street, Room 6293**

**San Diego, California 92101-8807**

*To report broken links or technical issues*

*ONLY, email [Webmaster](#).*

*To report a crime please see the Action*

*Center.*



**Telephone: (619) 557-5610**

**Toll Free (800) 544-1106**

**Fax: (619) 546-0720**

**TTY: (619) 557-3450**