

The Virgin Islands Consortium

St. Thomas Man Pleads Guilty To Bribing Public Official In Attempt To Smuggle Illegal Aliens Into U.S.

Crime / **Published On February 13, 2016 08:57 AM /**

Staff **February 13, 2016**



ST. THOMAS -- On Friday, Miguel Rodriguez Ramirez, 45, pleaded guilty in District Court to bribery of a public official, United States Attorney Ronald W. Sharpe announced via press release.

According to the plea agreement filed with the court, between July 2015 and December 2015, Mr. Ramirez bribed an undercover public official by paying the undercover public official to smuggle illegal aliens into the United States. Mr. Ramirez paid the undercover public official a total of \$12,080 to shepherd the illegal aliens through customs at the Cyril E. King Airport.

District Judge Curtis V. Gomez continued Mr. Ramirez's status in official detention. A sentencing date has been set for June 16, 2016.

Mr. Ramirez faces a maximum of 15 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

The case is the result of investigative work by Customs and Border Protection Office of Internal Affairs, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Office of Professional Responsibility and Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Sigrid Tejo-Sprotte.

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