



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 5, 2005

### **DEFENDANT SENTENCED FOR TRANSPORTING STOLEN LEAR JET AND POSSESSION OF FALSE IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS**

Marcos Daniel Jiménez, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida; Michael S. Clemens, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation; Barbara Barnet, Special Agent in Charge, Department of Transportation, Office of Inspector General; Jesus Torres, Special Agent in Charge, Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and Robert Harris, Special Agent in Charge, Defense Criminal Investigative Service, announced today that defendant, Jose Francisco Guasch, was sentenced on January 5, 2005 to 37 months incarceration following his October plea to (1) count of transporting a stolen aircraft in foreign commerce, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2312 and 2 by United States District Court Chief Judge William J. Zloch, in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

This sentence was ordered to run consecutive to the 8 month sentence imposed by United States District Court Judge Federico Moreno in Miami, Florida, in connection with the defendant's plea to one (1) count of knowingly possessing five (5) or more authentication devices and false identification documents, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1028. Both of these sentences follow the defendant's 13 month sentence out of the Middle District of Florida for making false statements in a matter within the jurisdiction of the Federal Aviation Administration. The defendant's combined sentences result in a 58 month term of imprisonment.

According to statements made in court, on December 15, 1997, Guasch, without the owner's consent, piloted a 1975 Gates Lear Jet 35 from the Ft. Lauderdale Executive airport and transported the aircraft to Nicaragua where he used the plane for charter services. The government estimated the aircraft's

value at the time of the incident to be approximately \$2.3 million. The defendant remained a fugitive until his arrest in June 2003.

On June 27, 2003, law enforcement agents executed a search warrant at Guasch's residence shortly after he was arrested in Miami, Florida, pursuant to the arrest warrant issued in connection with the criminal prosecution out of the Middle District of Florida. The defendant had been using the alias of Jesus Manuel Rios at the time of his arrest. During the execution of the search warrant, law enforcement agents discovered numerous fraudulent identification documents belonging to the defendant, but bearing the names of Jesus Rios or John Andrew Shearer. These documents included, but were not limited to, three (3) Federal Aviation Administration Instructor Certificates, three (3) Federal Aviation Administration Airline Transport Certificates, two (2) Social Security cards, three (3) Florida driver's licenses, one (1) California driver's license, three (3) Puerto Rico Birth Certificates, two (2) International Driving permits, one (1) honorable discharge certificate, one (1) United States Passport, two (2) medical certificates, one (1) pilot crew identification card, and numerous credit cards and checking account cards.

The agents also discovered packages of unopened blank ID cards, a laminator, an embossing sealer for the "Puerto Rico, Departamento de Salud," an embossing sealer for the "State of Florida," a Stamp for the Guayanabo, Departamento de Salud Registro Demografico Distrito MUN0128, a Stamp for the Republic of Paraguay, one (1) package of holograms, and an identification card printer.

Mr. Jiménez commended the investigative efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Transportation, Office of Inspector General, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and Defense Criminal Investigative Services. This case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Lynn Kirkpatrick and Melanie Allen.