



David P. Gonzales, United States Marshal

News Release

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U.S. MARSHALS TERMINATE FUGITIVE'S TWO YEAR FLIGHT FROM JUSTICE

Phoenix, Ariz. – On Sunday, November 5th, Tara Valencia, 38, was deported to the United States after her arrest in a small town outside of Los Mochis, Sinaloa, Mexico. Valencia was wanted by the Internal Revenue Service for 19 financial offenses, each punishable for 15 years or more.

It is alleged Valencia embezzled over \$800,000 from her former employer, a company based out of Tucson, AZ. In 2015, she was indicted on charges of Falsifying Tax Returns, Tax Evasion, Wire Fraud, Access Device Used for Fraud and Aggravated Identity Theft.

After her initial arrest in 2015, Valencia was released from custody and ordered to comply with the conditions of her pre-trial supervision. Valencia later did not attend her court hearing and a warrant for Failure to Appear was issued for her arrest.

After an extensive fugitive investigation conducted by the U.S. Marshals, information was developed that Valencia had fled the country to hide out in Mexico. After pinpointing her location, the U.S. Marshals Service subsequently contacted Mexican Law Enforcement authorities to assist in apprehending Valencia. Acting on this information, law enforcement in Mexico arrested Valencia on November 4, 2017, in a small town near Los Mochis where she was subsequently transferred to a Mexican jail and held awaiting deportation.

"I am appreciative of the outstanding cooperation of our Mexican law enforcement partners in the arrest of Tara Valencia in the State of Sinaloa," said United States Marshal David Gonzales. "Ms. Valencia's alleged embezzlement of \$800,000.00 had a devastating effect on the Tucson exterminating company where she was employed. She will now face the charges that resulted from a comprehensive investigation by the Internal Revenue Service after 2 years on the run."

Sunday afternoon Valencia was returned to the United States. She was held at the Maricopa County 4th Avenue Jail until Monday, when she was presented before a Federal Magistrate Judge for her initial appearance at the Sandra Day O'Connor Federal Courthouse.

"Our agency would like to thank the U.S. Marshals Service for apprehending this fugitive and bringing her back to the United States to face the pending charges," stated Ismael Nevarez Jr., Special Agent in Charge of IRS Criminal Investigation, Phoenix Field Office.

The United States Marshals Service is the nation's oldest federal law enforcement agency. Annually, U.S. Marshals arrest more than 50 percent of all federal fugitives and serve more federal warrants than all other federal agencies combined. For more information on USMS Fifteen Most Wanted fugitives and USMS Major Cases, go to www.usmarshals.gov.

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