

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

San Diego, California

*United States Attorney
Laura E. Duffy*

Assistant U. S. Attorney Sara J. O'Connell, 619-557-5404

For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - May 25, 2011

United States Attorney Laura E. Duffy announced that Richard Abapo Quidilla was sentenced today in federal court in San Diego by the Honorable Thomas J. Whelan to serve 66 months in custody and three years of supervised release following his release from prison, based on Quidilla's convictions for two counts each of computer fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1030(a)(5)(A), procurement of citizenship unlawfully, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1425, and aggravated identity theft, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1028A. Judge Whelan also ordered Quidilla to forfeit \$16,800.00 in cash found at his residence. Quidilla pled guilty on March 8, 2011.

According to court documents, Quidilla was a records custodian at the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services office in San Diego, California. In his guilty pleas, he admitted that he illegally replaced the biographical information in several United States citizens' records in the computer database with biographical information belonging to aliens. Many of the aliens were then able to use the records to obtain United States passports. Quidilla also admitted that he charged thousands of dollars for each record

alteration. Agents executing a search warrant at Quidilla's home also found several items stolen from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services office, including blank certificates of citizenship, an embossing device with the official United States seal, citizenship records, and legal permanent resident cards.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General and the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations.

DEFENDANT

Case Number: 11cr0617-W

Richard Abapo Quidilla

39

Pico Rivera, California

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Title 18, United States Code, Section 1030(a)(5)(A) - Computer Fraud

Title 18, United States Code, Section 1425 - Procurement of Citizenship Unlawfully

Title 18, United States Code, Section 1028A - Aggravated Identity Theft

AGENCIES

Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General

Department of State, Bureau of Diplomatic Affairs

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services

Immigrations and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations