

SEALED

AO 91 (Rev. 11/11) Criminal Complaint

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Southern District of Texas

United States Courts
Southern District of Texas
FILED

FEB 10 2026

United States of America

v.

Eliseo HENRIQUEZ-JOYA A.K.A "Cheyo"

Defendant(s)

Case No. C-26-109M

Nathan Ochsner, Clerk of Court

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On or about the date(s) of February 9th, 2026 in the county of Nueces in the
Southern District of Texas, the defendant(s) violated:

Code Section

Offense Description

8 U.S. Code § 1324(a)(1)(A)(v)

Conspiracy to transport illegal aliens.

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

See attached Affidavit

☒ Continued on the attached sheet.

Vincent J. Lachimia

Complainant's signature

Vincent Lachimia, Special Agent HSI

Printed name and title

Submitted by reliable electronic means, sworn to, signature
attested telephonically, per Fed.R.Crim.P. 4.1, and probable
cause found on February 10, 2026City and state: Corpus Christi, Texas

Judge's signature

Jason B. Libby, U.S. Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

AFFIDAVIT

1. I am a Special Agent with Homeland Security Investigations, Corpus Christi Texas Field Office. I have been in this position since April 20th, 2023, and am currently assigned to Corpus Christi Texas Homeland Security Group One BEST, Public Safety. My primary responsibilities include investigations involving transnational gangs and the illicit activity associated with the exploitation of public safety such as corruption, fear, and community insecurity. I attended the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center where I was trained in narcotics investigations, human smuggling and trafficking, financial crimes, weapons trafficking, immigration law, and other federal violations. I graduated from the Criminal Investigator Training Program which included four hundred and eighty hours of training and successfully completed the Homeland Security Investigations Special Agent Training Program.

2. Your affiant is an investigative or law enforcement officer of the United States within the meaning of Section 2510(7) of Title 18, United States Code, and am empowered by law to conduct investigations and to make arrest for offenses enumerated in Section 2516 of Title 18, to include Sections 8, 18, 19, and 21 of the United States Code.

3. Your affiant is familiar with United States Code; 8 USC 1324 - Any person who knowing or in reckless disregard of the fact that an alien has come to, entered, or remains in the United States in violation of law, transports, or moves or attempts to transport or move such alien within the United States by means of transportation or otherwise, in furtherance of such violation of law.

4. On December 21, 2024, Erlan Amilcar MAGANA-NUNEZ was arrested for attempting to smuggling forty-eight (48), illegal aliens through the U.S. Border Patrol, Kingsville Immigration Checkpoint. During the custodial interview, MAGANA-NUNEZ stated a friend known only as "CHEYO" got him the job driving the commercial box truck. MAGANA-NUNEZ had one (1) cellphone in his possession. Homeland Security Investigations ("HSI"), Corpus Christi executed a search warrant for the cellphone, resulting in the identification of saved contacts 1-7134162078 "CHEYO ENRIQUEZ"; and 1-8322705167 "CHEYO ASTILLERO".

5. HSI Corpus Christi learned of one or both phone numbers for "CHEYO" having been in contact directly, or through an intermediary, to the drivers of three (3) previous failed alien smuggling attempts that occurred at the Kingsville or Falfurrias Immigration Checkpoints between October 2024 to

December 2024. Each event involved a commercial vehicle outfitted with a false wall compartment to conceal the illegal aliens. A total of seventy-seven (77) illegal aliens were arrested during the three (3) failed alien smuggling attempts.

6. Through investigation, Agents were able to determine that those phone numbers belonged to Eliseo Henriquez-Joya.

7. On October 15, 2025, late in the morning, Henriquez-Joya was arrested in a separate incident. One (1) cellphone and several ledgers were discovered in an abandoned vehicle left by Henriquez-Joya. The ledgers referred to previous alien smuggling attempts and HSI was able to extract data from the cell phone.

8. On November 10, 2025, HSI Corpus Christi executed a search warrant for one (1) Motorola cellphone that was seized from HENRIQUEZ-JOYA at the time of his arrest. HSI Corpus Christi conducted a forensic examination of the cellphone belonging to HENRIQUEZ-JOYA and learned of a successful alien smuggling attempt that occurred in the overnight hours between October 14, 2025, to October 15, 2025. The commercial vehicle used during the successful alien smuggling attempt was seized approximately one (1) month later, on November 22, 2025, with a tractor bearing Texas license plate R551002, and attached semi-trailer bearing Texas license plate 219C725 (collectively "Semi-trailer"). During the failed alien smuggling attempt, fifty-one (51), illegal aliens were discovered at the U.S. Border Patrol, Freer Immigration Checkpoint hiding in a compartment built into the Semi-trailer. The driver was identified as Greibin Alexis PINOT-DUARTE, a Honduran National and illegal alien. One (1) cellphone revealed assigned phone number 1-8329680353. An abandoned cellphone was also discovered in the compartment with an assigned phone number 1-7135024816.

9. The assigned phone number 1-8329680353, seized from PINOT-DUARTE was discovered in the seized phone of HENRIQUEZ-JOYA, under saved contact "Alexis Chofer". Between October 7, 2025, to October 8, 2025, Alexis Chofer and HENRIQUEZ-JOYA revealed approximately thirty-two (32) audio calls over WhatsApp. On October 7, 2025, at 11:29 PM, Alexis Chofer begins sharing location data with HENRIQUEZ-JOYA from Mission, Texas. On October 8, 2025, at 2:51 AM, Alexis Chofer shares location data (27.586580, -99.297680), which translates to Lloyd Bentsen Hwy 59, Ranchitos Las Lomas, Texas, approximately a twenty-eight (28) minute drive, south of the U.S. Border Patrol, Freer Immigration Checkpoint. On October 8, 2025, at 3:23 AM, the Semi-trailer was captured travelling northbound through the U.S. Border Patrol, Freer

Immigration Checkpoint. On October 8, 2025, at 7:52 AM, Alexis Chofer terminates sharing location data with HENRIQUEZ-JOYA near Rosenberg, Texas. On October 14, 2025, at 10:52 PM, Alexis Chofer again begins sharing location data from point (26.534163, -99.090355), which translates to U.S. Hwy-83, La Loma de Falcon, Texas, to point (27.148470, -99.422987), which translates to U.S. Hwy-83, San Ygnacio, Texas.

10. The assigned phone number 1-7135024816, for the abandoned cellphone found in the compartment was also discovered in the seized phone of HENRIQUEZ-JOYA, under saved contact "Alfa3". Captured WhatsApp messages from Alfa3 to HENRIQUEZ-JOYA revealed real-time google map locations being shared to HENRIQUEZ-JOYA, at the request of HENRIQUEZ-JOYA between October 14, 2025, to October 15, 2025. The google map locations sent from Alfa3 to HENRIQUEZ-JOYA in October 2025 match the travel timeline from captured license plate readers for the Semi-trailer. Additionally, the Semi-trailer was captured travelling northbound through the U.S. Border Patrol, Freer Immigration Checkpoint on October 15, 2025, at 1:13 AM. At 1:17 AM, Alfa3 shares a real-time google map location of "(27.789376, -98.810702)", that translates to Lloyd Bentsen Hwy 59, Oilton, Texas, which is approximately a three (3) minute drive, north of the U.S. Border Patrol, Freer Immigration Checkpoint.

11. HSI Corpus Christi identified WhatsApp messages from phone number 1-7262464356, under saved contact "J'C Neew". On October 14, 2025, at 4:22 PM, HENRIQUEZ-JOYA questions J'C Neew on the arrival time. J'C Neew provides HENRIQUEZ-JOYA with updates and informs HENRIQUEZ-JOYA that "I saw a line of trailers just like this one passing through the scanner at that checkpoint". At 6:34 PM, J'C Neew messages HENRIQUEZ-JOYA "We're here now", and shortly after, messages HENRIQUEZ-JOYA "I have 18 with me now".

12. At 7:25 PM, HENRIQUEZ-JOYA asks, "How does it look in there"? J'C Neew responds by sharing a video attachment with HENRIQUEZ-JOYA. The video records a property with two (2) commercial trailers parked. One of the commercial trailers has its rear doors partially opened and a vertical numbering on the top, left side of the trailer "86626". Seizure photos from November 22, 2025, failed alien smuggling attempt at the U.S. Border Patrol, Freer Immigration Checkpoint revealed the same vertical numbering "86626", on the top, left side of the seized Semi-trailer.

13. At 7:28 PM, J'C Neew messages HENRIQUEZ-JOYA "And the driver is hiding too". HENRIQUEZ-JOYA responds "They don't see the driver, right? They don't know who the driver is"? J'C Neew replies "No", and HENRIQUEZ-JOYA responds with "Excellent. It's good to take care of the driver".

14. At 8:18 PM, HENRIQUEZ-JOYA asks J'C Neew "How many"? J'C Neew responds with "35 are going", and "I already put 30 inside".

15. At 10:58 PM, HENRIQUEZ-JOYA reminds J'C Neew "At the checkpoint, everyone quiet". J'C Neew responds "Yeah, man, we're packed tight, it's just that there are several chubby ones" and "Yes, I've already talked to them and I keep reminding them". J'C Neew also shares a video attachment with HENRIQUEZ-JOYA. The video records inside a wooden-framed compartment with multiple people seated in very close quarters. Seizure photos from November 22, 2025, failed alien smuggling attempt at the U.S. Border Patrol, Freer Immigration Checkpoint revealed a near-identical, wooden-framed compartment built inside the seized commercial trailer.

16. Law enforcement systems determined one (1) of the individuals captured inside the compartment on the same video to be Carlos Alberto RIVERA-ARIAS, a citizen and national of Venezuela. RIVERA-ARIAS was determined to be illegally present in the United States on that date.

17. On October 15, 2025, at 1:15 AM, HENRIQUEZ-JOYA messages J'C Neew "Hide Yourself". Moments later, J'C Neew responds with "We passed already". J'C Neew continues to provide HENRIQUEZ-JOYA with updates inside the Semi-trailer and real-time locations.

18. HSI Corpus Christi identified WhatsApp messages from phone number 1-8325043204, under saved contact "El cachorro azul". On October 8, 2025, at 7:42 AM, El cachorro azul shares a video attachment of a Hispanic male singing in Spanish while driving a tractor. The Hispanic male was identified as Greibin Alexis PINOT-DUARTE, who was arrested driving the Semi-trailer through the U.S. Border Patrol, Freer Immigration Checkpoint on November 22, 2025. On October 15, 2025, at 1:19 AM, El cachorro azul messages HENRIQUEZ-JOYA "We pulled it off". HENRIQUEZ-JOYA responds, "On standby for the delivery".

19. At 5:59 AM, HENRIQUEZ-JOYA asks El cachorro azul "And from the yard, how far are they"? El cachorro azul responds with "40min". HENRIQUEZ-JOYA tells El cachorro azul to "Coordinate with Jaguar, the driver's payment".

20. At 6:33 AM, El cachorro azul shares a video attachment with HENRIQUEZ-JOYA. The video records the dash of tractor in lowlight with someone repeating the phrase in Spanish "Ya vamos activos (3x)" ("we're active"). Seizure photos from November 22, 2025, failed alien smuggling attempt at the U.S. Border Patrol, Freer Immigration Checkpoint revealed the seized tractor with a dashboard matching the dashboard from the video.

21. HSI Corpus Christi identified WhatsApp messages from phone number 52-18971386021 under saved contact "Cholo Provedor". On October 15, 2025, at 4:15 AM, HENRIQUEZ-JOYA received a message from Cholo Provedor of an image. The image is a piece of paper with names of twenty-one (21) individuals and assigned claves titled "Samaritano" and dated "10-15-25".

22. HSI Corpus Christi identified WhatsApp messages from phone number 1-8328790254 under saved contact "Tatu". On October 15, 2025, at 6:06 AM, HENRIQUEZ-JOYA received a message from Tatu of an image labeled. The image displays several dozen ham and cheese sandwiches, bags of chips and bottles of water.

23. HSI Corpus Christi identified WhatsApp messages from phone number 1-7135628126 under saved contact "Alfa 1". On October 15, 2025, at 6:47 AM, HENRIQUEZ-JOYA received a message from Alfa 1 of an image labeled. The image displays two individuals (one male and one female), standing side by side. The image is of a WhatsApp message screen shot from phone number 1-2136825950. Law enforcement systems determined the male captured in the image to be Alejandro LOPEZ-TREJO, a citizen and national of Honduras. LOPEZ-TREJO was determined to be illegally present in the United States on that date.

24. At 10:34 AM, Alfa 1 sends another image. The image displays suspected costs, including -2,000 to "Chofer Negro" meaning the black driver.

25. Based on the above information, your affiant believes there is probable cause that HENRIQUEZ-JOYA conspired with others known and unknown to knowingly transport illegal aliens further into the United States in violation of 8 U.S.C. 1324.

Vincent J. Lachimia

Vincent Lachimia
Homeland Security Investigations Special Agent

Submitted by reliable electronic means, sworn to,
signature attested telephonically per Fed.R.Crim.P.4.1,
and probable cause found on February 10, 2026

AZ

Jason B. Libby

Jason B. Libby, U.S. Magistrate Judge

SEALED**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

for the

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I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

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cause found on February 10, 2026Jason B. Libby
*Judge's signature*City and state: Corpus Christi, TexasJason B. Libby, U.S. Magistrate Judge*Printed name and title*

AFFIDAVIT

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Vincent J. Lachimia

Vincent Lachimia
Homeland Security Investigations Special Agent

Submitted by reliable electronic means, sworn to,
signature attested telephonically per Fed.R.Crim.P.4.1,
and probable cause found on February 10, 2026

AK

Jason B. Libby

Jason B. Libby, U.S. Magistrate Judge