



Maricopa County Attorney

ANDREW P. THOMAS

301 W. JEFFERSON, SUITE 800
PHOENIX, AZ 85003
www.maricopacountyattorney.org

PH. (602) 506-3411
TDD (602) 506-4352
FAX (602) 506-8102

News Release

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For more information contact:

Mike Anthony Scerbo, Public Information Officer
(602) 506-3170 (office) or (602) 489-6913 (cell)

Guilty Plea in the Chandler Serial Rapist Case *Plea agreement calls for more than 160 years in prison*

County Attorney Andrew Thomas announced today that Santana Batiz-Aceves (DOB 4/20/68) has pled guilty to charges related to the Chandler rapist investigation. The charges stem from attacks on seven young girls in 2006 and 2007. Five were sexually assaulted. The victims were between 12 and 15 years old. Batiz-Aceves was arrested in January 2008 following exhaustive investigation by Chandler Police. The defendant is an illegal immigrant who had been deported three times out of California; once was after serving time for possession of drugs for sale, once was after serving time on a burglary, and once when he was caught trying to return to the US.

On March 1, 2010 Batiz-Aceves pled guilty to 12 charges including Child Molestation, Attempted Sexual Assault, and Aggravated Assault. The plea agreement stipulates that Batiz-Aceves will spend 168 years in prison. The defendant will be sentenced on April 2, 2010. Deputy County Attorneys Angela Andrews and Jodi Hammond prosecuted the case.

Thomas stated, "The community has a sacred duty to protect its children. This 168-year sentence for this violent predator does just that. We thank our prosecutors and Chandler police who worked together to deliver justice."

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