

# **Dominican national pleads guilty to illegal reentry after serving prison sentence, being deported**

"A Lawrence man pleaded guilty in federal court in Boston to illegally reentering the United States after been deported.

Francisco Araujo Lara, 43, pleaded guilty on Oct. 11, 2023 to one count of unlawful reentry of a deported alien. U.S. District Court Judge Indira Talwani scheduled sentencing for Jan. 25, 2024.

Araujo Lara, a citizen on the Dominican Republic, was deported from the United States in September 2019, after serving an 18–30-month state sentence for a cocaine distribution conviction. Sometime thereafter, Araujo Lara unlawfully reentered the United States. In 2022, he was arrested in Lawrence for heroin and cocaine distribution. Araujo Lara pleaded guilty to the charges and was sentenced to 30 months in prison.

The charge of unlawful reentry of a deported alien provides for a sentence of up to 10 years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of up to \$250,000. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and statutes which govern the determination of a sentence in a criminal case.

Acting United States Attorney Joshua S. Levy and Todd M. Lyons, Field Office Director, Boston, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Enforcement and Removal Operations made the announcement today. Assistant U.S. Attorney David G. Tobin of the Major Crimes Unit is prosecuting the case."