



PRESS RELEASE

No: 242/2012

Date: 13th April 2012

Two Spanish nationals convicted on Imports & Exports Act charges

Two Spanish men were arrested, in two separate incidents, by HM Customs yesterday and appeared in the Magistrate's Court this morning.

In a joint anti-smuggling operation executed by the Gibraltar Defence Police and HM Customs, 24 year old Victor Manuel FERNANDEZ Ruano was arrested in the area of Western Beach. He was seen approaching the frontier fence carrying a number of packages. On being challenged, he attempted to escape by entering the sea and swimming to Spain. He was apprehended and subsequently charged with unlawful exportation of goods, obstructing a Customs Officer and with Tobacco Act offences. 5,400 cigarettes (27 cartons) were seized in the operation. Fernandez was remanded in custody overnight and this morning sentenced to fines totalling £2,400. The Royal Gibraltar Police Marine Section assisted in the operation.

In a separate matter, Roberto RIBERO Rodriguez (41) was sentenced to a £100 fine for obstructing a Customs Officer. The charge was brought in relation to an incident of April 9th 2012 during which he fled to Spain. He was arrested by HM Customs yesterday afternoon upon his re-entry to Gibraltar, remanded in custody overnight and convicted this morning.