



Inside ICE

ICE PREDATOR ARRESTS TOP 6,000

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff and Assistant Secretary Michael J. Garcia announced July 19 that arrests during the first two years of Operation Predator have exceeded 6,000.

Operation Predator is ICE's comprehensive initiative to safeguard children from foreign national pedophiles, international sex tourists, Internet child pornographers and human traffickers.

Since Operation Predator began on July 9, 2003, the initiative has resulted in 6,085 child predator arrests throughout the country - an average of roughly 250 arrests per month and eight arrests per day. While arrests have been made in every state, the most have occurred in these states: Arizona (207), California (1,578), Florida (255), Illinois (282), Michigan (153), Minnesota (190), New Jersey (423), New York (367), Oregon (148) and Texas (545).

Operation Predator also has an important international component, as leads developed by domestic ICE offices are shared with ICE Attaché offices overseas and foreign law enforcement for action. To date, leads shared by ICE with foreign authorities have resulted in the

arrest of roughly 1,000 individuals overseas.

Operation Predator targets four different types of violators:

1) Criminal Alien Child Sex Predators: Operation Predator evolved out of ICE's mission to find and deport illegal aliens, particularly those with criminal records. The majority of the arrests under Operation Predator - roughly 85% - have involved foreign nationals in this country whose child sex crimes make them removable from the United States. By matching immigration databases with state Megan's

law directories, ICE agents have arrested more than 1,800 registered sex offenders.

"With an average of nearly 250 child sex predator arrests per month, ICE's Operation Predator has emerged as one of most successful efforts ever launched to protect America's children," said Secretary Chertoff. "In enforcing the nation's immigration laws, ICE is systematically targeting those who pose the greatest threats, including criminal aliens who prey on our children."

Continued on Page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

ICE Arrest Ends 20-Year Manhunt For Fugitive	3
Mexican Coke, Meth Smuggler Gets 16 Years	4
ICE Works With Locals To Arrest MS-13 Member	4
ICE Arrests Man Sought For Journalist's Murder	5
Virginia Man Pleads Guilty To Lies About Terror Ties	5
ICE Town Hall	6



ICE agents, their faces obscured for security reasons, escort one of 32 people arrested during an Operation Predator enforcement action in Orange County, Calif.

ICE OPERATION PREDATOR ARRESTS TOP 6,000

Continued from Page 1

Some recent ICE arrests involving criminal aliens who committed child sex crimes include Julio Cesar Rabago-Magana, a Mexican man who raped a four-year-old child in the basement of Mercado Central in Minneapolis, Minn. Rabago-Magana pleaded guilty Oct. 23, 2002 to first-degree criminal sexual conduct. After serving his criminal sentence, he was arrested by ICE agents at his St. Paul home on March 3, 2005, and deported six days later.

To date, more than 2,100 of these foreign-born predators have been removed from the United States to their home nations. As part of this process, ICE advises the host nation governments about the criminal histories of each sex predator it is deporting to their nations. ICE also issues Green Notices through Interpol in appropriate cases. The Green Notice provides information on career criminals who have committed, or are likely to commit, offenses in several countries.

2) **Internet Child Pornographers:**

Drawing on its cyber crime investigative expertise and assets such as the ICE Cyber Crimes Center, ICE is targeting those U.S. citizens and foreign nationals who possess, manufacture or distribute child pornography via the Internet.

“Possessing child pornography is a crime; but when those images of abuse are found in the hands of

teachers, camp counselors, coaches and clerics, uncovering that crime becomes more urgent,” said Assistant Secretary Garcia. “Investigations of those persons who hold positions of trust in the community and trade in these despicable images will remain a priority for this agency.”

In one of the largest Internet child pornography cases ever conducted, ICE targeted a Belarus-based company and its affiliates that operated and processed credit card payments for 50 child pornography websites. To date, this case has resulted in 236 arrests in the United States and more than 1,000 arrests by foreign authorities acting on ICE leads.

Utilizing ICE’s forensic expertise, the Cyber Crime Center (C3) also operates the National Child Victim Identification System. ICE agents have authenticated more than 2,100 images of children in pornographic images. These authentications provide critical evidence to ensure successful prosecution of the traders and producers of child pornography, and assist in the identification of child pornography victims.

3) **International Child Sex Tourists:**

Working cooperatively with foreign governments through ICE’s Attaché offices worldwide, ICE agents investigate American citizens who travel abroad to engage in sex with minors. ICE is also targeting individuals who come to this country for sex with minors.

Thus far, ICE agents have made 14 arrests under the new child sex tourism provisions of the PROTECT Act. In one case, 85 year-old John Seljan was sentenced in March 2005 to 20 years in prison. Seljan was arrested in Los Angeles as he attempted to board a flight to the Philippines, where he intended to have sex with two Philippine girls ages 9 and 12.

4) **Child Traffickers & Smugglers:**

The criminal networks engaged in human smuggling and trafficking activities have become more violent and profit-driven than ever. At the same time, the victims of these organizations are often defenseless children and juveniles. Through long-term criminal investigations, ICE is aggressively targeting those organizations that traffic and exploit young people for sex.

In one of the largest sex trafficking cases ever brought under the Trafficking and Victims



Protection Act, three Mexican men pleaded guilty in New York in April 2005 to forcing young Mexican women to work as prostitutes in brothels throughout the New York metropolitan area. The young women were subject to routine physical assaults and threats to force them to commit acts of prostitution. Three other members of the Carreto organization have pleaded guilty and two additional defendants have been indicted in the ICE case.

To enhance all these efforts to protect children, ICE has formed partnerships with several non-governmental organizations, including NCMEC and World Vision’s child sex tourism prevention project.

Members of the public wishing to report suspicious activity may contact ICE at 1-866-DHS-2ICE or Operation.Predator@dhs.gov. Additionally, NCMEC can be contacted at 1-800-843-5678 or at www.cybertipline.com. Additional information about the operation is posted at <http://www.ice.gov>.

Inside ICE is an e-newsletter produced by the ICE Office of Public Affairs to inform the public about the mission, operations and activities of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Please send comments and contributions to:

InsideICE@dhs.gov

Russ Bergeron
Editor

ICE ENDS 20-YEAR MANHUNT WITH FUGITIVE'S ARREST

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — A 20-year international manhunt ended in Los Angeles July 11 when ICE officers arrested one of Mexico's most wanted fugitives.



Alfredo Rios Galeana

gional Fugitive Task Force, the United States Marshals and Secret Service and the Department of Housing and

Alfredo Rios Galeana, 51, was taken into custody without incident on immigration violations by members of ICE's Los Angeles Fugitive Operations Team, ending a nearly two decade international manhunt.

ICE was assisted by the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), the United States Marshals and the Department of Housing and

Urban Development.

Galeana, who had been living in Los Angeles under the alias Arturo Montoya, is featured on Mexico's list of Most Wanted fugitives for his role in a series of bloody bank robberies that rocked Mexico City in the 1970s and 1980s.

Sought in Mexico on eight felony warrants, including charges of murder, kidnapping, and robbery, Rios had been at large since escape from prison in 1986.

Rios' arrest came after DMV investigators received a tip on the fugitive's whereabouts. According to DMV's sources, he had undergone cosmetic surgery to alter his appearance. ICE verified Rios' identity through fingerprints.

"Our borders will not be barriers to bringing violent criminals to justice," said Norma Bonales, Acting Deputy Field Office Director for ICE Detention and Removal Operations in Los Angeles. "ICE is working with law enforcement partners locally and around the globe to take these fugitives off the streets."

ICE DRO SETS RECORD WITH D.C. REMOVAL FLIGHT

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In the largest recorded deportation flight removal in the Washington, D.C. area, ICE Detention and Removal Operations (DRO) officers deported 120 citizens of Mexico back to their country this week.

"This is the largest recorded flight of deportees originating entirely from the Washington Field Office and departing from Dulles Int'l Airport," said Field Office Director Mary Loiselle, who leads ICE's removal efforts in the metropolitan area. "Criminal aliens have no right to be in the United States. They continue to commit violent crimes and terrorize our communities. We will not tolerate it. ICE will continue to target immigration violators, especially criminal aliens, as we work with our partners to restore integrity to the nation's immigration system."

Among the 120 deportees are 56 convicted criminals. Of those 56 aliens, 36 were convicted for vio-

lent offenses ranging from malicious wounding to manslaughter.

Another 15 were convicted for drug related crimes, and six are classified as child sex predators with convictions ranging from child molestation to indecent liberties on a child under the age of 13. There are also four aliens believed to be members of violent gangs.



Valdez-Gonzalez

among those removed this week. Valdez stabbed to death an individual associated with the Clanton Gang in California.

Tomas Valdez-Gonzalez, 32 who was convicted of manslaughter in El Monte, Calif. was



Quiroga-Sanchez

was convicted of an aggravated felony, Indecent Liberties on a child under the age of 13 years of age. The victim was his step-daughter. He was sentenced to five years in prison and was deported upon completion of his criminal sentence.

Another deportation from the Metro Washington, D.C., area was Andreas Quiroga-Sanchez, 30, who

MEXICAN METH, COKE SMUGGLER GETS 16 YEARS

BROWNSVILLE, Texas — A Mexican drug smuggler, whose plan to hide cocaine and methamphetamine in building blocks was busted by ICE agents, was sentenced to 16 years in prison July 13.

Jose Luis Castillo-Meza, 37, a resident of Rio Bravo, Tamaulipas, Mexico, received the 16-year prison sentence and a five-year term of supervised release after he pleaded guilty April 7 to possession with intent to distribute more than 700 pounds of cocaine and about 17 pounds of methamphetamine.

The investigation began in November 2004 when Chicago law enforcement officials seized drug money in paint cans from a tractor-trailer destined for a Harlingen, Texas, warehouse. They reported this information to ICE special agents.

ICE special agents in Brownsville went to the warehouse and found four individuals, including Castillo-Meza, who initially gave a false name and identified himself as the warehouse supervisor. ICE agents noted that one man in the warehouse was in the process of loading pallets of building blocks onto a tractor-trailer, while the driver was strapping the loads, which were to be delivered to San Antonio that evening.

During a search, agents found paint cans and other pallets of building blocks. A canine drug detection dog alerted to the pallets. Agents took a sample block, which appeared normal, to the nearby international bridge for X-rays. The X-rays revealed bundles hidden within the block. Agents ultimately found 328.9 kilograms (723 pounds) of cocaine and 7.7 kilograms (17 pounds) of methamphetamine concealed in the blocks.

Further investigation revealed that Castillo-Meza had bought the building blocks and mortar to seal up the hollow areas and had paid more than \$5,000 cash. Both Castillo-Meza and the forklift driver had previously loaded and delivered a similar load of blocks to a location in San Antonio.

Special agents from the ICE Brownsville office, with the assistance of the Harlingen Police Department, conducted the investigation. Castillo-Meza was ordered remanded to the custody of the Bureau of Prisons to begin serving his 192-month sentence.

ICE AGENTS WORK WITH LOCAL POLICE; ARREST INDIANA MS-13 GANG MEMBER

MONTICELLO, Ind. — ICE officers, working with local police, arrested a member of the violent “Mara Savatrucha” (MS-13) gang here July 12.

Victor Marvel, 28, a national of El Salvador, was arrested at his girlfriend’s residence in Monticello. Marvel is an admitted member of the violent MS-13 street gang, and is in the U.S. illegally. He has a criminal history that includes convictions for public intoxication, resisting law enforcement and operating a vehicle without a license.



Victor Marvel

Working on a tip, ICE Detention and Removal Operations (DRO) officers attempted to arrest Marvel at his brother’s residence in Monticello. Unable to locate him, ICE exchanged information with the Monticello Police Department, which encountered Marvel later that day at his girlfriend’s house and turned him over to ICE.

Working on a tip, ICE Detention and Removal Operations (DRO) officers attempted to arrest Marvel at his brother’s



Marvel, who has an outstanding final order of removal against him, will remain in ICE custody until he’s deported to El Salvador.

“Street gangs threaten the safety of our communities,” said ICE DRO Field Office Director Deborah Achim, who oversees ICE DRO in a six-state area that includes Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Kentucky, Kansas and Missouri. “ICE is aggressively targeting MS-13 gang members with the ultimate goal of removing them from the United States.” Achim said.

Marvel’s arrest is part of Operation Community Shield, an ICE national anti-gang initiative launched in March to target members of the MS-13 gang. To date, ICE agents, working with federal, state and local law enforcement partners, have arrested more than 400 MS-13 members nationwide. The vast majority of those arrested so far have been placed into removal proceedings.

HOUSTON ICE ARRESTS MEXICAN SOUGHT IN JOURNALIST KILLING

HOUSTON, Texas — An illegal alien from Mexico, wanted for tax evasion and for questioning in the homicide of a Mexican reporter, was arrested by ICE agents July 2.

Jesus Rojas-Lopez, 41, is wanted in Mexico for questioning regarding the murder of Veracruz, Mexico, journalist Raul Gibb Guerrero, in addition to tax evasion charges. Interpol and the Agencia Federal de Investigaciones (AFI) had been looking for Rojas-Lopez for several months.

Interpol and AFI informed ICE that Rojas-Lopez was in the Houston area. ICE agents located and arrested Rojas-Lopez on immigration violations.

“This arrest reinforces our continued commitment to work with law enforcement agencies in the United States and in Mexico,” said Bob Rutt, ICE’s Special Agent-in-Charge in Houston. “We will not allow fugitives to hide in our communities to avoid prosecution for crimes committed in other countries.”

Rojas-Lopez remains in ICE custody and has been placed into removal proceedings. He will be turned over to the Mexican authorities.

NEW ENGLAND ICE DRO ARRESTS CAREER CRIMINAL IN BRISTOL, RI

BRISTOL, R.I. — ICE detention and removal officers arrested a fugitive criminal alien with an extensive criminal history July 7.

ICE officers arrested Mario Jose Barbosa Carvalho, a 41-year-old citizen of Portugal, without incident at his residence in Bristol, Rhode Island. Carvalho has a lengthy criminal history that includes convictions that range from assault and battery with a dangerous weapon to breaking and entering and possession of cocaine. He has had 170 arraignments in Massachusetts.

“By finding and removing fugitive aliens, ICE is able to greatly enhance public safety in our communities,” said Bruce E. Chadbourne, Field Office Director of ICE Detention and Removal Operations in New England. “In this case, ICE has arrested a dangerous and menacing criminal from our streets.”

Carvalho entered the United States legally over 30 years ago. As a result of his criminal convictions, a federal immigration judge ordered him deported from the United States. Carvalho failed to comply.

Carvalho’s arrest comes three weeks after ICE’s Operation FLASH, a New England-wide operation targeting criminal alien fugitives. During Operation FLASH, ICE arrested 189 individuals across New England, including 56 in Rhode Island.

The arrests of Carvalho and the Operation FLASH fugitive aliens are a result of ICE’s National Fugitive Operations Program (NFOP), which is part of ICE’s ongoing effort to restore integrity to the nation’s immigration system. Last fiscal year, ICE removed a record 160,000 aliens from the country. So far this fiscal year, ICE has removed more than 75,500 aliens from the country, including more than 45,000 criminal aliens.

VIRGINIA MAN WHO LIED ABOUT TIES TO TERROR PLEADS GUILTY

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — A Virginia man investigated by ICE and FBI agents assigned to the Joint Terrorism Task Force has pleaded guilty to lying on his application for United States citizenship.

Maher Amin Jaradat, a 43-year-old Israeli-born Palestinian and naturalized U.S. citizen, entered a guilty plea July 14 to fraudulently procuring U.S. citizenship.

Jaradat submitted an application for U.S. citizenship with immigration authorities in March 1995, and in June 1995 appeared before immigration authorities where he swore under oath that the contents of the application were true, even though he knew the application contained false statements.

He also failed to disclose that he had been a member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) for 16 months beginning in 1980; that he had also studied bomb-making and the use of small arms at a training camp in Syria run by DFLP, an organization involved in terrorist activities; and that he had engaged in security duties in Lebanon. Jaradat also did not disclose that, beginning in 1981, he had also been a member of al-Fatah, an organization responsible for numerous terrorist attacks and airplane hijackings.

In addition, Jaradat falsely claimed that he had never been arrested, cited, charged, indicted, convicted, fined or imprisoned for breaking or violating any law or ordinance, when in fact, he had been arrested for assault and battery in the city of Alexandria, Va. in 1990.

“U.S. citizenship is a privilege. Those who attempt to gain it through fraud, especially by concealing their affiliation with violent militant groups, will be pursued vigorously by ICE,” said ICE Washington, D.C. Special Agent-in-Charge Allan J. Doody.

Inside ICE

425 I St NW
Washington, D.C. 20536
Attn: Office of Public Affairs

Russ Bergeron, Editor
Phone: 202-514-2648
Fax: 202-514-1776
Email: Russ.Bergeron@dhs.gov

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U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.

ICE TOWN HALL



A capacity crowd of ICE employees listens as DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff, front center, Assistant Secretary Michael Garcia, front left, Deputy Assistance Secretary John Clark, front right, and the ICE leadership team discuss the DHS Second Stage Review and other ICE issues during a town hall meeting at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, D.C. July 15.