



Inside ICE

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Myers Praises ICE's "Historic" Accomplishments in FY06



As DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff looks on, Assistant Secretary Julie Myers discusses ICE's accomplishments during a news conference in Washington, D.C.

Assistant Secretary Julie Myers, speaking before the media in Washington, D.C. October 30, called ICE's accomplishments during Fiscal Year 2006 (FY06) "historic," and said the agency succeeds because its people continue to strive for excellence and aspire to the highest standards of performance.

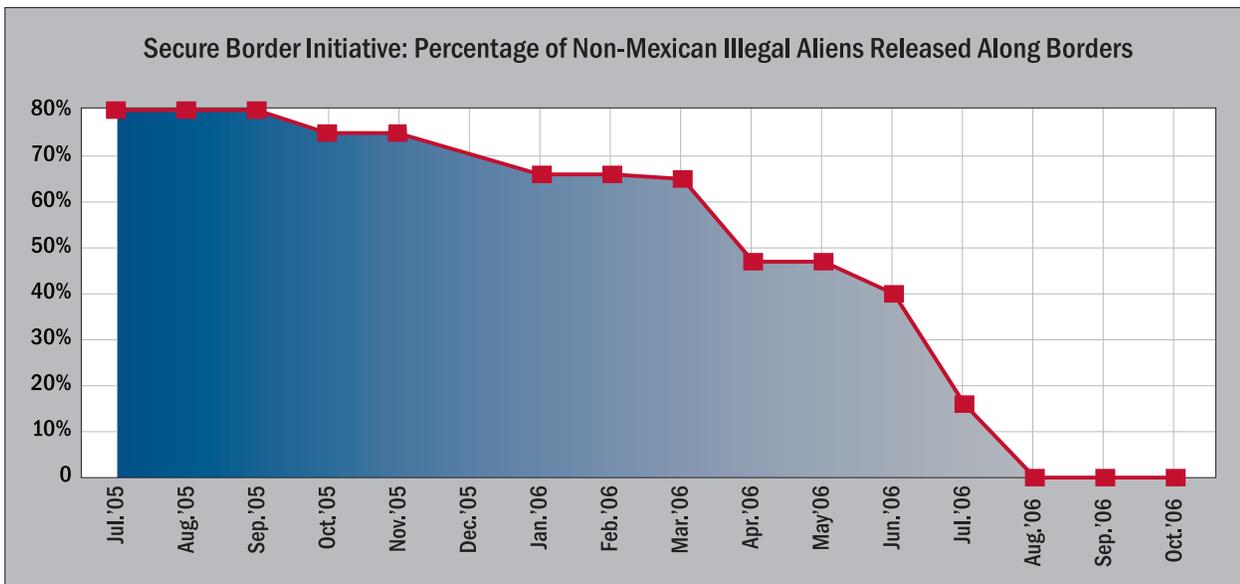
Assistant Secretary Myers made the remarks during a news conference called by DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff to review the department's

accomplishments during FY06. ICE Director of Investigations Marcy Forman and Director of Detention and Removal Operations John Torres joined Assistant Secretary Myers at the event.

"Ultimately," Assistant Secretary Myers said, "it has been the people of ICE who have made this a successful and historic year. I am truly honored to lead the more than 15,000 men and women of ICE, who face the threats, meet their

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Myers Praises ICE's "Historic" Accomplishments in FY06



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obligations and perform their missions every day with courage, integrity and a high level of accountability.”

During her remarks, Assistant Secretary Myers noted that ICE had ended the “catch and release” policy along the borders that had been the standard for decades, setting records for the removal of criminal and other aliens in the process.

She also noted that ICE had re-invented worksite enforcement, using the IMAGE program to help businesses that want to comply with the law, while using criminal prosecutions and asset forfeitures against employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens. In FY06, ICE arrested 668 individuals on criminal charges, and more than 3,100 on administrative charges. That is nearly triple

the arrests made by INS in its last full year of operation.

In her remarks, Assistant Secretary Myers focused on ICE’s efforts to make America safer, noting the increase in ICE Fugitive Operations teams to 52, as well as ICE’s efforts to target criminal alien gang members through Operation Community Shield, and to protect our children through Operation Predator. She also mentioned ICE’s partnerships with federal, state and local law enforcement officials, including the Border Enforcement Security Task Forces and the establishment of Document and Benefit Fraud Task Forces in 11 major U.S. cities.

Assistant Secretary Myers recognized a wide range of ICE accomplishments, from the establishment of Trade Transparency Units in Argentina,

Brazil and Paraguay to combat money laundering and trade crimes, to the expansion of ICE’s arms and strategic technology investigations. She also praised the Federal Protective Service, which was named the lead agency for the government facilities sector of the National Infrastructure Protection Plan.

“During this year we continued to work toward building a new agency culture,” Assistant Secretary Myers said, “an ICE culture that builds on the best practices of our legacy agencies while recognizing that our merged authorities and expertise require new training, new ideas and unified leadership.” ■

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.

Georgia Imam Pleads Guilty to Support of Terrorist Group

ROME, Ga. — A Georgia man pleaded guilty in federal court October 13 to providing material support to Hamas, a designated foreign terrorist organization.

Mohamed Shorbagi, 42, of Rome, Ga., pleaded guilty as the result of a criminal complaint and plea agreement that had been filed in and sealed by the federal court in August.

Shorbagi was charged with providing financial support to Hamas and conspiring with unnamed others to provide such material support. He provided the support through donations to the “Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development” (HLF), knowing that some or all of the

money was in fact destined for Hamas.

An ICE investigation determined that Shorbagi knew that money provided to HLF was actually funneled to Hamas because, in part, he was a Georgia representative for HLF and he had attended HLF meetings at which high-level Hamas officials made presentations condemning Israel. Shorbagi himself also had hosted high-level Hamas officials at the Rome, Ga., mosque at which he served as imam. He did so knowing that Hamas had been designated as a foreign terrorist organization engaged in terrorist activity.

Shorbagi has entered a plea agreement in which he agrees

that, under the federal sentencing guidelines, he would be sentenced to the statutory maximum of 15 years in prison. He has also agreed to cooperate fully and truthfully with the government. If the government determines that such cooperation substantially assists in the investigation or prosecution of other persons, it will file a motion to reduce the sentence. Shorbagi also agreed to pay full restitution to victims of fraud crimes he had committed, and the government agreed not to charge him in consideration of his cooperation. ■

FPS Plays Vital Role at N.Y. Terrorist Trial

ALBANY, N.Y. — ICE’s Federal Protective Service (FPS) provided significant law enforcement and security support during the highly publicized trial of two Albany, N.Y. men charged with money laundering for terrorist purposes.

The FPS Command Bus provided on-site command, control and communications, and the physical and visual impression the bus created contributed to the overall security of the operations.

An initial deployment of FPS’ newly created bicycle unit was

also highly successful, allowing mobile response and security checks of adjacent pedestrian walkways, bridges, and two large multilevel parking facilities.

Yassin Aref, an imam at the Masjid As-Salam mosque in Albany, and Mohammed Hossain, a local business owner in the area, were tried at the U.S. District Court in Albany. The proceedings lasted almost a month and ended October 10.

Aref was convicted on 10 counts and Hossain was con-

victed on all 27 counts of his indictment. Sentencing of the two men is scheduled for February 12, 2007.

Both individuals had been arrested in August 2004 and were charged with money laundering and providing material support to terrorists. During an undercover operation, both defendants allegedly laundered money in a plot to transfer a surface-to-air missile to a terrorist organization. The missile was to be used in an attack on New York City. ■

ICE Helps Win Indictment of Reputed Crime Boss

SCRANTON, Pa. — The reputed leader of Pennsylvania's Bufalino organized crime family has been indicted on charges of solicitation of murder, witness tampering and money laundering following a joint investigation by ICE agents and other federal and state law enforcement officials.

Federal officials announced October 17 that a superceding indictment has been returned against William "Billy" D'Elia, charging D'Elia with 18 counts, including conspiracy, money laundering, subornation of perjury, obstruction of justice, contempt of court, solicitation of homicide and witness tampering.

The superceding indictment alleges that D'Elia, from 1999 to January 2005, laundered hundreds of thousands of dollars in drug proceeds and obstructed a grand jury investigation into the money laundering. The indictment also alleges that D'Elia participated in a second money-laundering scheme in May 2006. The superceding indictment further alleges that while D'Elia was free on bail, he engaged in two more criminal schemes that were investigated by ICE and the Pennsylvania State Police. According to the indictment, one of these schemes involved yet another episode of attempted money laundering.

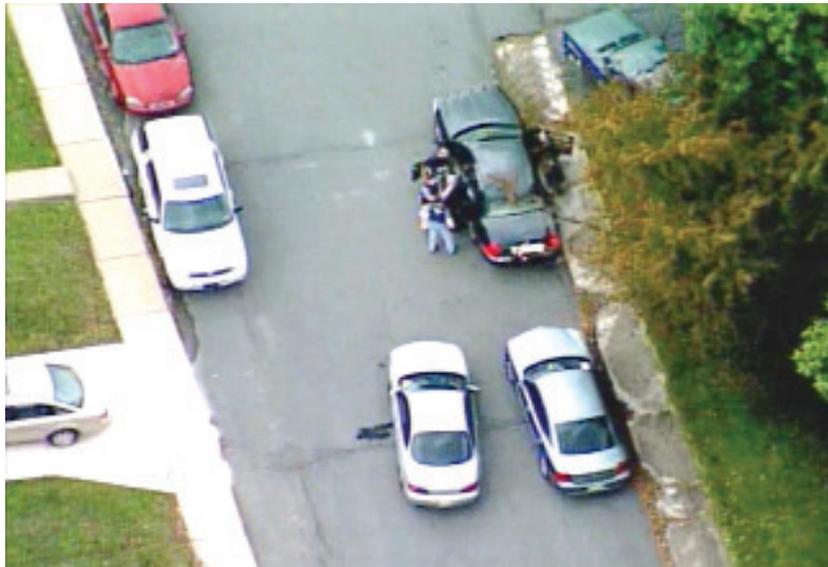


Photo of arrest of reputed crime boss.

Finally, the superceding indictment alleges that between June and October 12, D'Elia was investigated by ICE and the Pennsylvania State Police for soliciting others to kill witnesses, and attempting to obstruct justice by soliciting the killing of potential witnesses against him and his co-conspirators.

If convicted of all of these offenses, D'Elia faces a maximum sentence of 245 years imprisonment and fines totaling \$4,000,000. The superceding indictment also contains a forfeiture count, which calls for the forfeiture of \$565,000, the funds D'Elia allegedly derived from this illegal activity.

John Kelleghan, acting special agent-in-charge of the ICE

Office of Investigations in Philadelphia, said, "The indictment demonstrates ICE's broad authority in targeting criminal elements that pose direct threats to U.S. communities. Through a cooperative, year-long investigation by ICE and the Pennsylvania State Police, the reputed leader of a long-standing organized crime family, now stands accused of a murder-for-hire plot and laundering funds related to drug and alien smuggling. Removing this individual from the streets is a significant victory for residents of Pennsylvania." ■



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 comprises four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.

Inside ICE

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Report Suspicious Activity:

1-866-DHS-2-ICE

1-866-347-2423

www.ice.gov

ICE MOST WANTED

This Week's Featured Fugitive:

Luis Albeiro Peña-Peña



ALIASES: El Supervisor, El hijo del Zapatero, El Señor de las Tunas, El Mono de Antioquia

DATE OF BIRTH: May 10, 1966

PLACE OF BIRTH: Tamesis, Antioquia, Colombia

HEIGHT: 5'10"

WEIGHT: 200 lbs.

HAIR: BROWN

EYES: BROWN

SCARS/MARKS: Unknown

LAST KNOWN WHEREABOUTS: Medellin, Colombia

BACKGROUND: Wanted for cocaine trafficking, money laundering and kidnapping of an ICE agent.

If you have any information on the whereabouts of the above fugitive, please call 1-866-DHS-2-ICE.

View more ICE Most Wanted online at: www.ice.gov

Directing Operations



An ICE FPS officer directs operations at the site of a protest at the summit of the Paso Del Norte International Bridge in Downtown El Paso, Texas.