



Inside ICE

ICE TARGETS TERROR "CHARITY"

A Joint Terrorism Task Force investigation conducted by ICE, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service resulted in a federal grand jury indictment in Dallas this week charging a leading Muslim charitable organization and seven of its officers with providing material support to terrorists.

Five of the seven men were arrested by federal agents July 27 in a joint operation targeting the leadership of the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development (HLF). The two remaining men are believed to be out of the country and are fugitives from justice. The men and the organization are accused in a multiple count federal indictment with providing material and financial support to the HAMAS movement and its violent terrorist attacks against the State of Israel.

HLF and the men cited in the indictment are also accused of engaging in prohibited financial transactions with a terrorist organization, money laundering, conspiracy and filing false tax returns. The government is also seeking forfeiture of \$12.4 million that the



The Holy Land Foundation, which was based in Dallas, Texas, is accused of providing material and financial support to members of the HAMAS terrorist organization like the hooded "martyrs" shown above. HAMAS has been responsible for acts of terror throughout Israel.

charity allegedly gave to HAMAS since 1995.

Assistant Secretary Michael Garcia, who joined Attorney General John Ashcroft in a news conference July 27 to announce the indictment and arrests, said that while the HLF represented itself as a legitimate charitable organization helping orphanages, schools, and needy Palestinians, it instead sent money to support HAMAS operators and key strategists.

"The Holy Land Foundation took advantage of America's tax laws to bankroll terror," Garcia said. "In this case, ICE agents have been part of

the team since the beginning. We brought our substantial immigration and financial investigative authorities to bear in assisting the FBI. Following the money trail is at the core of ICE's counter-terrorism mission—looking at how terrorists and other criminal organizations earn, move and store assets."

Garcia said the case demonstrated how law enforcement agencies, including the Justice and Homeland Security departments, can coordinate and work together. Garcia thanked ICE agents in Dallas, Newark, San Diego and Los Angeles who supported the investigation.

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Cano Correa



Masya Duran



Sabogal Zuluaga



Flores Rios



Rendon Ramirez

Colombia's Norte Valle Drug Cartel

ICE WANTS KEY CARTEL MEMBERS

ICE agents in Colombia and throughout Latin America and the Caribbean are seeking assistance from the public in locating five individuals charged with crimes relating to their alleged membership in Colombia's Norte Valle drug cartel.

PUBLIC SECURITY

Federal indictments describe the Norte Valle Cartel (NVC) as Colombia's largest and most feared drug organization. Since 1990, the NVC allegedly exported roughly 500 metric tons of cocaine worth more than \$10 billion and is responsible for between 30 percent and 50 percent of the cocaine entering the United States.

The cartel uses violence and brutality to further its goals. Hundreds in Colombia are believed to have died at the hands of the NVC. In addition, the NVC is accused of using the Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia or AUC, a paramilitary organi-

zation in Colombia, to protect its drug smuggling routes. The AUC has been designated as a foreign terrorist organization by the U.S. government.

On July 2, 2004, **Luis Hernando Gomez -Bustamante**, a.k.a. "Rasguno," who is accused of being one of the top leaders of the cartel, was detained in Cuba after entering on a false Mexican passport. Colombian authorities are negotiating with the Cuban government to have Gomez-Bustamante extradited. Gomez-Bustamante has been charged in the U.S. with operating a continuing criminal enterprise in connection with his leadership role in the cartel.

On January 15, 2004, another accused leader of the NVC, **Arcangel de Jesus Henao-Montoya** was captured in Panama and expelled by Panamanian authorities into ICE custody in New York. Henao-Montoya, has been charged in the Eastern District of New York with conspiracy to import cocaine and conspiracy to launder drug proceeds.

ICE agents are seeking information on the whereabouts of five suspected members of this drug cartel. The individuals, all sought on federal drug and money laundering charges, are:

Dagoberto Florez-Rios -Born on

March 24, 1957. A Colombian citizen, Florez-Rios is a member of the Henao-Montoya family by marriage and is believed to be one of their trusted lieutenants.

Jose Aldemar Rendon-Ramirez - Born on July 24, 1950. Rendon-Ramirez is a Colombian citizen and is believed to be a financial officer in the NVC.

Orlando Sabogal-Zuluaga (aka Alberto) -Born on February 22, 1966. He is a Colombian citizen and a trusted lieutenant of Gomez-Bustamante in the NVC.

Jaime Maya-Duran -Born on April 17, 1963, Maya-Duran is a Colombian citizen and is considered a lieutenant of Gomez-Bustamante in the NVC.

Jhon Eidelber Cano-Correa - Born on December 13, 1963, he is a Colombian citizen and is considered one of the most violent and dangerous members of the NVC.

Anyone with information on the whereabouts of these individuals is encouraged to call the ICE Attaché at the U.S. Embassy in Bogotá, Colombia, at 011-571-383-2643 or to send an e-mail message to: ICE_Bogota@dhs.gov.

Tips leading to the arrest of these individuals could result in monetary awards.

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: Russ.Bergeron@dhs.gov.

Russ Bergeron
Editor

GARCIA OUTLINES ICE COUNTER-DRUG INITIATIVES

Assistant Secretary Michael Garcia told a joint congressional committee that ICE's counter-narcotics efforts are directly related to its homeland security mission and that ICE is working successfully in partnership with local, state and other federal agencies to fight drug smuggling.

PUBLIC SECURITY

Garcia's comments came in testimony July 22 before members of the House committees on Government Reform and Homeland Security.

"The mission of homeland security is to address vulnerabilities—vulnerabilities that expose our borders to infiltration, our financial systems to exploitation and that weaken our national security," Garcia said. "Smuggling is a direct threat to our border security. Organizations that exploit our borders to bring in narcotics could, for the right amount of money, employ those methods to bring in components for weapons of mass destruction."

Garcia said that ICE has built on the robust counter-narcotics legacy of the U.S. Customs Service, especially its expertise in attacking the money trail of narcotics smugglers. Adding the intelligence capabilities and unique authorities of the former U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service has given ICE substantial, broad tools for fighting drug smuggling.

Garcia emphasized that ICE has formed a highly successful partnership with other components of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), especially inspectors and Border Patrol agents from U.S. Customs and Border Protection. He also cited the key role played by ICE's Air and Marine Operations

through its surveillance and advanced interdiction capabilities.

Citing numerous joint operations involving a wide range of enforcement agencies, Garcia told the joint committee that cooperation, both within and outside of the DHS enforcement community, is the key.

"Interagency cooperation and coordination is key to winning the war on drugs, and ICE is a valuable player that brings powerful authorities and assets to the table," Garcia testified.



**Assistant Secretary
Michael Garcia**

ICE ARRESTS THREE IN BANK SCAM

ICE agents in New York arrested three persons July 15 for using fake immigration and other identity documents to fraudulently obtain millions of dollars in loans from a New York bank, and ICE agents assigned to the Cornerstone initiative are studying the case to determine how they can help financial institutions to avoid such fraud in the future.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Angelo Gerasimou and Kally Vadoros were arrested for bank fraud and George Fregedis was arrested on passport fraud charges. Two other persons, Larry Stathakis and George Gerasimou are also wanted and are believed to be in Greece. The U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York is seeking their extradition.

In November 2003, an ICE investigation revealed that Vadoros was brokering fraudulent mortgage loans from Fleet National Bank for Vadoros and Stathakis. The loans were obtained using false immigration resident alien cards, false Social Security cards, false drivers licenses and fictitious credit histories.

At least 15 loans for approximately \$200,000 each were obtained in the scam.

ICE Cornerstone agents are reviewing the case for indicators that might help other banks detect similar frauds. Cornerstone is ICE's economic security initiative that targets the alternative financing mechanisms that terrorist and other criminal organizations use to earn, move and store funds. The goal of Cornerstone is to disrupt or dismantle these funding mechanisms before these organizations can exploit them for their own purposes.

Active partnership between law enforcement and the private sector is a key part of Cornerstone. Cornerstone builds partnerships by trading information, methodologies, and security tactics with the front-line players – those businesses and industries that manage the very systems terrorists and other criminal organizations seek to exploit.

This public-private partnership aspect of Cornerstone was evident in this case, where ICE officials involved noted that Fleet National Bank officials had been extremely helpful during the course of the investigation.

ICE DEPORTS SOMALI PERSECUTOR "JUDGE NUR"

ICE announced on July 19 the deportation of former Somali military judge Abdi Ali Nur Mohamed to Africa. The case was part of ICE's "No Safe Haven" initiative, which denies refuge in the United States to international human rights violators and ensures that those who have committed crimes against humanity do not receive the benefits of legal immigration status in America.

PUBLIC SECURITY

"We will not allow this country to be a safe haven for human rights abusers," said DHS Assistant Secretary Michael J. Garcia. "Human rights violators will be discovered, brought before our courts, and as in the case of Mohamed, deported from this country."

Mohamed, also known as "Judge Nur," served as a judge while military ruler Mohamed Siad Barre was in power in Somalia. He is believed to be the first Somali to have his immigration status terminated for fraudulent misrepresentations regarding his participation in human rights violations.

Mohamed was ordered deported by a federal immigration judge in San Diego on June 11, 2003. An ICE investigation, initiated in 1998, developed information that in the late 1980s, Mohamed had ordered the execution of innocent civilians based on their political opinions and clan membership near the city of Hargeisa, Somalia. Information from this investigation was used to terminate Mohamed's status in the United States. He remained in ICE custody from the day of the immigration judge's decision until he was removed from the United States.



"Judge Nur"

ICE, with the assistance of the Department of State, has been working on Mohamed's removal from the United States for the past several months. ICE is precluded from removing most individuals to Somalia due to an injunction that is presently being litigated in the federal courts. Arrangements were made to deport Mohamed to an African country other than Somalia.

ECONOMIC SECURITY



Assistant Secretary Michael Garcia, shown at left, speaks during a conference on ICE's Cornerstone initiative sponsored by the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C., July 20. Asa Hutchinson, Department of Homeland Security Under Secretary for Border and Transportation Security, joined Garcia for the keynote address at the event, which focused on how the enforcement of laws targeting financial crime serves the mission of homeland security.

ICE, COLOMBIANS SEIZE CALI CARTEL PROPERTIES

ICE announced July 21 that Colombian National Judicial Police officers assigned to the ICE Financial Investigations Unit in Colombia have seized 78 properties near Cali in connection with a major ongoing drug money laundering investigation.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

These properties, which included 12 residences, 11 country houses/farms, 11 businesses, 29 high-value cars, seven garages and eight firearms, were titled in the name of or otherwise tied to defendant Harold Velez-Restrepo, an accused member of Colombia's Cali drug cartel.

Velez-Restrepo was recently charged in a federal indictment with conspiracy to distribute a controlled substance. According to the indictment, Velez-Restrepo acted as a front for Cali cartel members to purchase properties and launder drug proceeds. Arrested by Colombian authorities in Dec. 2003, Velez-Restrepo is awaiting extradition to the United States on these charges.

The seizures in Colombia are the result of a long-term investigation

of the Cali drug cartel by the ICE Special-Agent-in-Charge office in Miami, in conjunction with the ICE Attaché Bogotá and the Colombian National Judicial Police.

Launched in 1992, the original investigation resulted in two federal indictments against a total of 130 defendants, including the then four leaders of the Cali drug cartel. These defendants were charged with racketeering and other federal crimes.

These charges ultimately led to the apprehension, conviction and jailing of most of the Cali cartel leadership in the United States and Colombia in the late 1990s. In total, the case resulted in the arrest of more than 100 defendants and the seizure of more than 47,000 kilograms of cocaine and at least \$15 million.

After several years of trials, ICE agents began receiving new information in 2001 that certain members of the cartel were back in business from their jail cells in Colombia. Working with their counterparts in the Colombian National Police



Smuggling large cocaine loads like the one shown above, the Cali Cartel laundered billions of dollars in illegal funds. The cartel remains a target of ICE's investigations.

and the Drug Enforcement Administration, ICE agents began working on a new case.

Last December, a new indictment was unsealed against 11 suspected members of the Cali cartel, including Harold Velez-Restrepo and the founding members of the cartel. Among other things, these defendants were charged with drug trafficking violations; money laundering and the related investment of \$2.1 billion worth of drug proceeds in Colombia; and conspiracy to obstruct justice through multiple murders and payoffs.

ICE MAKES PREDATOR ARREST FOR CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

ICE agents have arrested a 50-year-old Fresno, Calif., man employed as a supervisor at a teen ranch on child pornography charges. The arrest was part of Operation Predator, ICE's ongoing initiative to combat child sexual predators worldwide.

The Fresno man, Bradford Harrison, is an overnight supervisor of juveniles at Valley Teen Ranch in Madera, Calif. Courts refer troubled boys to the facility because they have been abused or judged to

be delinquent. According to a criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court, agents searched Harrison's residence and recovered digital images of prepubescent girls in various stages of undress.

PUBLIC SECURITY

"This man worked for an institution that exists to provide exploited youth a place of refuge," said Resident Agent-in-Charge Scott Brown, who leads ICE investigations in

Fresno. "The possibility that he purchased materials from an industry that is an egregious abuser of children is profoundly disturbing."

Investigative leads linked Harrison to a Belarus-based company that provided credit card billing services for more than 50 child pornography websites worldwide. Based on those leads, ICE agents searched Harrison's apartment where they recovered images of young girls, ranging in age from approximately 7 to 14, in sexually explicit poses.

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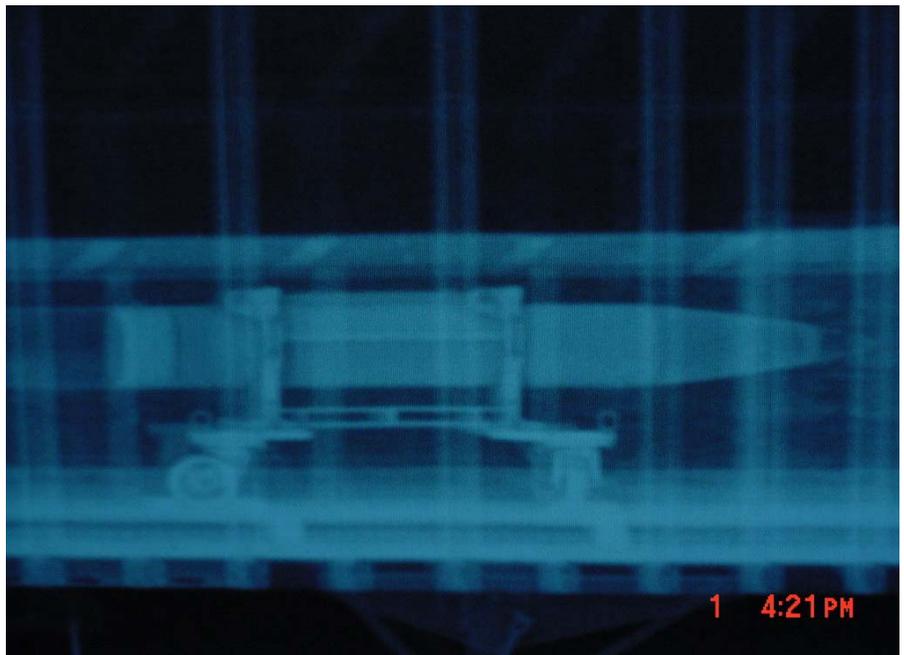


U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security, responsible for the enforcement of border, economic, infrastructure and transportation security laws.

ICE seeks to prevent acts of terrorism by targeting the people, money and materials that support terrorist and criminal activities.

X-ray Security



A missile being transported in the trailer of a tractor-trailer rig shows up clearly in this X-ray photo taken by ICE Federal Protective Service (FPS) officers guarding a federal installation near Washington, D.C. The missile was eventually determined to be an inert training weapon, but the incident demonstrated the capabilities of the FPS officers and their technology.