



Inside ICE

THREE PLEAD GUILTY TO FORCING YOUNG MEXICAN WOMEN INTO SEXUAL SLAVERY

NEW YORK, N.Y. - In one of the largest sex trafficking cases since the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, an ICE investigation led April 5 to guilty pleas from three Mexican men to 27 counts of forcing young Mexican women into prostitution in brothels throughout the New York City area.

Josue Flores Carreto, Gerardo Flores Carreto and Daniel Perez Alonso, all Mexican nationals, admitted that for more than a decade, beginning in 1991, they recruited young, uneducated Mexican women from impoverished backgrounds, smuggled them from Mexico to the United States and forced them to engage in prostitution.

All three men admitted to physically assaulting their victims on multiple occasions, causing serious bodily injuries. They admitted to using threats of serious harm and physical restraint against the young Mexican women to force them to commit acts of prostitution. They also admitted that they beat the women for hiding money, disobeying their orders and failing to earn more money.

The victims were forced to perform acts of prostitution at a rate of \$25 to \$35 per "John." Of that amount, the owners and managers of the brothels took half. The other half was taken by the defendants and other members of the Carreto criminal organization.

"This case is an example of the violence and abuse inherent in human trafficking," said Assistant Secretary Michael Garcia. "Young Mexican women were terribly exploited by this ruthless trafficking organization. ICE is working to identify and dismantle criminal groups like these that exploit our borders and their victims."

The three men are all members of the Carreto family sex trafficking ring that operated between Tenancingo, Mexico, and Queens, N.Y. They entered their pleas just before the beginning of their trial in Brooklyn, N.Y.

This prosecution, which includes previous guilty pleas by three other defendants and the indictment of two additional persons presently in jail in Mexico, represents one

of the government's largest sex trafficking cases brought under provisions of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. The act was passed by Congress to combat forms of coercion, such as psychological manipulation and intimidation, which traffickers use to hold victims in conditions of servitude.

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Three young women stand at the entrance to a brothel. Trafficking in women for the purpose of prostitution is a worldwide problem. Combating this modern form of human slavery is a priority for ICE and the U.S. Departments of Justice and State. (U.S. State Department Photo)

ICE FIGHTING CHINESE HUMAN SMUGGLERS

LOS ANGELES, Calif. - The discovery of 29 men in shipping containers aboard a vessel at the Port of Los Angeles and the deportation of a major figure in a heinous 1993 Chinese smuggling case mark the progress ICE is making in fighting the organized crime groups involved in Chinese human smuggling.



Chong Gui Chen

In Los Angeles, Department of Homeland Security officers are continuing to piece together the details of a human smuggling scheme that resulted in the arrest of 29 Chinese nationals at the Port of Los Angeles April 3.

The Chinese nationals, all men, were initially spotted by private port security personnel. The port police contacted the Department of Homeland Security and representatives from ICE, the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) responded.

As of press time, investigators had determined the migrants were smuggled into the United States inside two 40-foot shipping containers on board the NYK Artemis, a Panamanian-registered vessel that arrived in Los Angeles April 2. Authorities say the ship, whose last

port of call was Hong Kong, embarked for Los Angeles March 22. Prior to that, the ship also took on cargo in the Chinese cities of Xiamen and Shekou.

The circumstances of this latest incident are similar to those of past human smuggling scenarios. Officers at the scene say the stench coming from the containers was overwhelming. Inside, agents found piles of discarded food packages, blankets, and containers overflowing with human waste. In addition to food and water, the containers were outfitted with car batteries to power small portable fans.

"We've had four container smuggling operations in L.A. in the last year," said Kevin Jeffery, ICE Los Angeles Deputy Special Agent-in-Charge. "None of the aliens' final destination was the L.A. area. They were all heading east. We had a case last year where the aliens were going to remain in the container and continue by rail to Chicago. With LAX (Los Angeles International Airport) and our seaport, L.A. is a smuggling transportation hub, but not necessarily a destination."

Ironically, the arrival of the smuggling load in Los Angeles

coincided with the departure of Chong Gui Chen, who was arrested by the Chinese in 1996 and extradited to the United States. Chen was deported by ICE after serving 121 months in federal prison on a kidnapping conviction that stemmed from a heinous 1993 smuggling case.

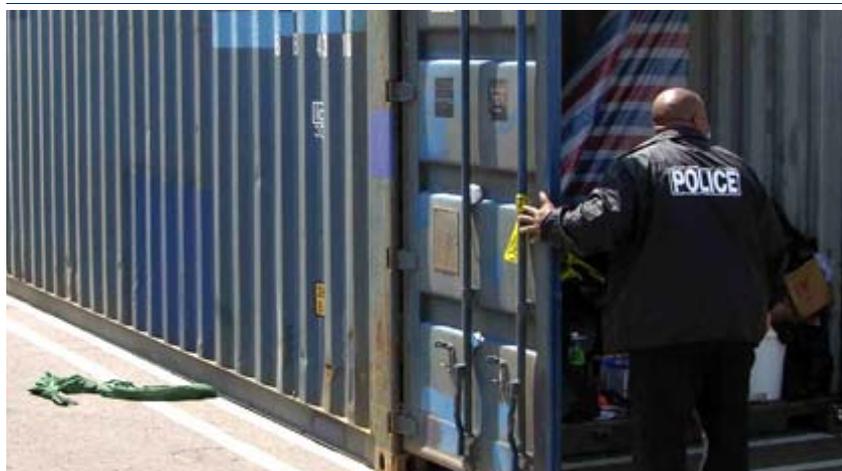
In March 1993, approximately 200 illegal Chinese aliens were smuggled into the United States on board the vessel "Captain David." Upon landing in Hampton, Va., approximately 140 aliens were transported at gunpoint to safe houses in Bridgeport, Conn. The remaining aliens were taken to a safe house in Hampton. After 10 days, when their families had paid the smuggling fee of \$25,000 to \$30,000, most of the aliens had been released.

The aliens whose families had not yet paid the smuggling fee were transferred to Edison, N.J., where they were held for ransom. The guards beat the aliens and forced them to make calls to their families to pay the ransom. After a month, six aliens still had not been released. They were transported to Queens, N.Y., and beaten frequently until their families paid their ransom.

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



An ICE agent examines a shipping container that was used in an attempt to smuggle 29 Chinese men into the United States.

ICE ARRESTS 38 IN SAN DIEGO GANG ROUNDUP

SAN DIEGO, Calif. – A total of 38 aliens with suspected ties to a violent Oceanside, Calif., street gang were arrested March 29 in a joint operation that included ICE agents and members of the North County Regional Gang Task Force.



Of the 38 subjects taken into custody, 13 are reputed gang members. The remaining targets are associates of suspected gang

members. The group, made up of 33 men and five women, are all Mexican nationals.

The crackdown targeted a notorious Oceanside street gang believed to number more than 100, as many as 20 percent of who are illegal aliens. The gang's members are known to carry illegal weapons and have been linked to a wide range of criminal activities, including selling drugs on the street.

“Street gangs are a breeding ground for crime,” said Michael Unzueta, ICE San Diego Special Agent-in-Charge.

“ICE is committed to using its broad immigration and customs authorities – both criminal and administrative – against gang members. We are working closely with our law enforcement partners to break up these deeply entrenched organizations that threaten public safety in our communities.”

Many of those targeted in the San Diego takedown are accused of or have been convicted of numerous crimes, including child molestation, murder, assault with a weapon, drug violations, robbery, burglary, domestic violence and state parole violations.

In San Diego, ICE's anti-gang enforcement effort includes investigators who find and arrest alien gang members subject to deportation. In the last five months, ICE agents here have arrested more than 170 criminal aliens, including 71 gang members.

Last month, ICE launched Operation Community Shield, a national anti-gang initiative that brings all of ICE's law enforcement powers to bear in the fight against gangs, and in particular the Mara Salvatrucha gang, better known as MS-13.

ICE BREAKS GUYANESE COCAINE SMUGGLING GROUP

NEW YORK, N.Y. - An ICE investigation has led to the arrest of 17 members of a Guyanese-based drug importation and distribution ring that smuggled hundreds of kilograms of cocaine through John F. Kennedy International Airport by concealing the drugs inside of frozen fish and chow mein noodle containers.

The ICE investigation revealed that the New York-based cocaine smuggling ring was responsible for importing hundreds of kilograms of cocaine from Georgetown, Guyana, onboard cargo and passenger flights arriving at John F. Kennedy International Airport in Queens, N.Y.

ICE agents executed search warrants April 5 at three locations in the New York metropolitan area and made 17 arrests. The agents seized approximately one kilogram of powder cocaine, quantities of crack cocaine, a nine-millimeter pistol, drug paraphernalia and a vehicle containing a “trap,” or secret compartment, in

which drugs could be hidden during transport.

“There's no limit to what criminal smuggling organizations will do for profit,” said Salvatore Dalessandro, ICE New York Acting Special Agent-in-Charge. “Whether it's drugs, weapons or illegal aliens, these organizations will try to smuggle any commodity if the price is right. With these arrests, ICE has dismantled an entire criminal network, which is a tremendous public safety benefit for the city.”

The smuggling ring used various methods to import large quantities of cocaine through JFK and bypassing Customs inspection. They used drug couriers who concealed the cocaine on their persons and packed the narcotics inside crates of food. As part of the scheme, the defendants created shell corporations and listed them as the destination of the “food” shipments.



An ICE agent investigates drug smuggling at John F. Kennedy Airport in New York.

ICE'S FPS PROTECTS THE GATES OF GOVERNMENT

On the surface, the mission of ICE's Federal Protective Service (FPS) is massive. FPS provides law enforcement and security for some 9,000 federal facilities and more than one million daily workers and visitors in those buildings nationwide. But that's just the tip of the FPS iceberg.

During an average week in March, FPS officers arrested wanted fugitives encountered at federal buildings in San Diego, Calif.; Las Vegas, Nev.; Chicago, Ill.; Charlotte, N.C.; and Tukwilla, Wash. They also arrested three civilians for threatening federal workers, one federal worker who assaulted his supervisor and one person involved in an armed robbery and stabbing outside a federal courthouse.

During that same week in March, FPS agents also worked with the Federal Bureau of Investigation on the investigation and arrest of a man who mailed a bomb threat to the ICE office in Los Angeles, Calif.; and FPS hazardous material teams (HAZMAT) responded to suspicious packages arriving at federal buildings at Washington, D.C.; Falls Church, Va.; and Ft. Worth, Texas.

That level of activity is typical for FPS. In its first year as a component of ICE, FPS made over 4,000 arrests; responded to 73,367 calls for service; detected more than 530,000 prohibited items, (including knives, canisters of Mace, pepper spray and other weapons); responded to 518 bomb threats; cleared 1,009 suspicious packages; and provided law enforcement support at nearly 2,200 public demonstrations.

"The rapid growth in arrests and seizures illustrates how FPS is continuing to become a more effective law enforcement entity under the Department of Homeland Security," said FPS Director Wendell C. Shingler.

"As part of ICE, we're now better positioned than ever before to share information and to leverage our enforcement efforts - all in service of our goal of providing a safer, more secure environment for federal employees and the American people."

FPS traces its roots all the way back to 1790, when six night watchmen were hired by a Congressional commission to protect the buildings that would become the seat of government for the United States in Washington, D.C.

Today, FPS is incredibly diverse and its capabilities in homeland security are significant. In response to the domestic terrorist attack on the federal building in Oklahoma City in 1995, FPS began preparing for that mission long before the creation of DHS and ICE.

FPS has approximately 1,500 federal special agents, police officers and inspectors, all of whom undergo initial training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Ga. It also oversees the operations of approximately 15,000 contract security personnel.

FPS is involved in comprehensive intelligence sharing and joint investigations with other agencies at the federal, state and local levels. It is a participant in the federal Joint Terrorism Task Forces and it has developed specialized response capabilities, including hazardous material teams (HAZMAT), canine explosive detection and protective medicine teams.

Another unique capability of FPS is found in its four "Mega-centers." These facilities monitor all types of alarm systems, surveillance television and wireless dispatch communications within federal facilities nationwide. They provide redundant



A member of an FPS hazardous material team, known as HAZMAT, prepares to don a gas mask prior to a training exercise.

alarm monitoring 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In the event of a partial or catastrophic failure at one center, all operations can be remotely switched and monitored at a "sister" location.

One measure of the importance of FPS' expertise and capabilities is its deployment in support of security at major national and international events.

For example, during the summer of 2004 FPS supported security operations at the Republican National Convention in New York, N.Y.; the Democratic National Convention in Boston, Mass.; the dedication of the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., and the G8 Economic Summit at Sea Island, Ga.

"We live in a new era of vigilance since the Oklahoma City bombing 10 years ago and the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, especially in our federal facilities," said Shingler. "Our FPS law enforcement and security personnel have risen to the new challenges of their homeland security mission."

ICE ARRESTS MAN WITH LINKS TO WHITE SUPREMACY GROUP

NEW YORK, N.Y. – A fugitive criminal alien with an AK-47 assault weapon and possible ties to a white supremacy group has been arrested by the New York City Fugitive Operations Unit of ICE.

Sotirios Kanakis, 37, was arrested at his residence April 1. A security check of the residence by ICE Fugitive Operations officers found the AK-47 assault weapon in Kanakis' closet. The officers also found an eight-inch dagger and materials suggesting that Kanakis has some affiliation with a white supremacy group.

"A criminal alien with an assault weapon who abuses the freedoms and rejects the equality offered in America has no place in our society," said Raymond Simonse, Chief of ICE's New York Fugitive Operations Units. "Our city is safer with Kanakis behind bars, and we will remove him from this country as soon as his other legal issues are resolved."

Because of his criminal convictions, Kanakis was placed in deportation proceedings in 1997. An immigration judge ordered him deported in 1999, but Kanakis appealed and the matter remained before the courts until October 2004, when the Board of Immigration Appeals affirmed the judge's order that Kanakis be deported. He then failed to report for removal and became a fugitive.

ICE DEPORTS FILIPINO MAN WHO EXPOSED HIMSELF TO SCHOOLGIRL

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. – A Filipino man with an extensive criminal history and a conviction for exposing himself to and propositioning a New York schoolgirl was removed from the United States by ICE officers.



John Kwe

John William Kwe was deported from the United States on April 4, under escort by ICE Detention and Removal Operations (DRO) officers, to the Philippines. He had been convicted of endangering the welfare of a child and public lewdness. Kew had other arrests and had also been convicted for possession of marijuana; attempted robbery; possession of stolen property; and grand larceny.

Kwe, who entered the United States in 1980 as a legal immigrant, stopped a schoolgirl in Howard Beach, Queens, N.Y., on her way home from school, exposed himself and propositioned her with money. He was ar-

rested, convicted and sentenced to a year in prison. ICE took Kwe into custody in December 2004 after his release from the New York State Department of Corrections. He was held at the Pike County Correctional Facility and ordered deported by the Board of Immigration Appeals on February 11.

"Legal immigrants like Kwe, who steal, do drugs and abuse our children, forfeit their right to remain in this country," said Thomas Decker, Acting DRO Field Office Director in Philadelphia. "Immigration to the United States is a privilege, and removing aliens who abuse that privilege only preserves our immigration system for honest, law-abiding immigrants."

ICE formally removed more than 160,000 aliens nationally in Fiscal Year 2004. More than half of those were criminal aliens. During the 2004 Fiscal Year, which ended September 30, ICE removed more than 2,400 criminal aliens from the Philadelphia area.

Kwe is one of 30 criminals removed by ICE's Philadelphia DRO Field Office within the last week.

TYLER JET EXECS GET PRISON TIME FOR MONEY LAUNDERING SCHEME

TYLER, Texas - Two former executives of the Tyler Jet Co. were sentenced to federal prison for money laundering as the result of an investigation by ICE and other law enforcement agencies.

Timothy J. Beverley, 48, of Tyler, was sentenced to 72 months in prison and Gregory A. Hopper, 50, also of Tyler, was sentenced to 42 months in prison. Beverley was the president and manager of Tyler Jet, a Texas company that bought, sold and refurbished jet aircraft before being forced into bankruptcy in 2002. Hopper was the Chief Financial Officer.

Beverley and Hopper pleaded guilty in federal court to obtaining a \$300,000 loan to repair a jet and then diverting \$280,000 of that money for their own use. Besides that incident, both men each signed plea agreements admitting to widespread fraud involving between \$10 and \$20 million.

"Complex cases like this require thorough coordination and cooperation of all law enforcement agencies involved," said Kenneth W. Cates, ICE Dallas Special Agent-in-Charge. "Our agents worked closely with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service. By combining our unique expertise and enforcement authorities, we were able to assist the U.S. Attorney's Office in the successful prosecution of this case."

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.

Community Shield



An ICE agent finds a three-foot machete hidden under the bed of Lever Alvarenga-Gamez, an active member of the violent street gang known as Mara Salvatrucha, or MS-13. Alvarenga-Gamez is from Honduras and is in the United States illegally. At the time of his arrest, Alvarenga-Gamez was also in possession of a false Social Security card and a false resident alien card. He was one of 15 members of MS-13 arrested by ICE during Community Shield operations in Washington, D.C. and northern Virginia. Community Shield is a nationwide law enforcement anti-gang initiative that brings all of ICE's law enforcement powers to bear in the fight against gangs, particularly MS-13.