



# Inside ICE

## ICE ARRESTS 95 GANG MEMBERS

**NEW YORK, N.Y.** -- A joint investigation led by ICE in the New York area has resulted in the arrest of 95 criminal alien gang members, all of whom now face removal from the United States.

The arrests are the culmination of a joint four-month investigation conducted by ICE, the New York City Department of Probation, the Yonkers Police Department and other local law enforcement agencies that targeted criminal alien gang members residing in New York City, Yonkers and Long Island.

The ICE initiative, called "Operation ICE Cage," was launched in January and falls under the umbrella of ICE's nationwide anti-gang initiative called "Operation Community Shield." To date, Community Shield has led to the arrest of hundreds of gang members nationwide, including more than 200 members of the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) street gang.

Community Shield is designed to disrupt, dismantle and prosecute violent gangs by using the full authorities and investigative tools available to ICE. Under this initiative, ICE is employing its broad immigration authorities against gang members, as well as its customs authorities in targeting narcotics smuggling, money laundering and in seeking the forfeiture of assets.

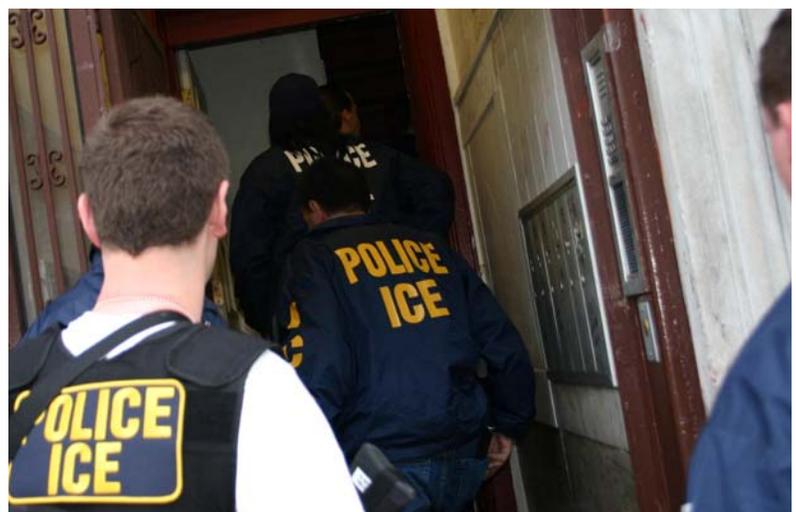
This initiative involves strong partnerships and cooperation with existing federal, state and local anti-gang efforts.

"It's well documented that violent gangs pose a significant threat to the public safety of New York," said Martin Ficke, ICE New York Special Agent-in-Charge. "This initiative leverages an array of law enforcement efforts with the common goal of removing criminal alien gang members from the United States and eliminating their ability to continuously re-victimize our communities."

The criminal alien gang members arrested in the New York operation had prior convictions for various offenses including assault, attempted assault, sexual misconduct, criminal sale of marijuana, criminal possession of a weapon, drug sales and possession, gang assault, promoting prostitution, criminal possession of stolen property and robbery.

All of the gang members arrested were in the country illegally and will now be placed in removal proceedings. Countries of origin for those arrested include Dominica, Ecuador, Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala and Peru. Arrests were made within the five boroughs of New York City, Yonkers, Nassau County and Suffolk County.

Gangs targeted in the operation included MS-13, the Crips, Carnalito, Los Cholos, La Raza, Somebre Negra, Los Vagos, Cachondos, La Pirmera, the Latin Boys, Vatos Locos, Crazy Homies and the Mexican Mafia.



ICE agents enter a building in the New York area to arrest a gang member during Operation ICE Cage, part of ICE's Community Shield initiative targeting gang members throughout the United States.

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## MS-13 GANG MEMBER ON ICE MOST WANTED LIST

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Assistant Secretary Michael J. Garcia announced that ICE is adding a violent member of the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) street gang to its list of “Most Wanted” fugitives.

David Rivera (a.k.a. Gerber Alfaro Bonilla and Herbert Bonilla) has a string of felony convictions and is wanted for questioning in connection with several murders in Los Angeles. Rivera is the first member of MS-13 to make the ICE Most Wanted fugitives list. He is wanted by ICE on charges of re-entering the United States after deportation. The violation carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison.

Rivera is also wanted for questioning by the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) in connection with a string of murders in Los Angeles that were carried out in his name between 1999 and 2001. The LAPD also seeks to question Rivera about his suspected drug activity.

Rivera’s criminal record includes past convictions for lewd and lascivious acts with a minor; possession of a firearm by a felon; illegal possession of ammunition; and repeated convictions for possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell. Rivera went into hiding after his arrest on charges of raping a 12-year-old girl and witness intimidation in April 2001. The rape charges against Rivera were dropped after the chief witness in the case was found murdered.

Rivera is 5 feet 5 inches tall and weighs 135 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes. He also has a mole close to his right eye. His last known address was 619 S Rampart Blvd. # 206 Los Angeles, Calif., 90057. Rivera has family ties in the Los Angeles area. He was born in Mexico and has provided the following birth dates: 10/26/1974, 10/25/1978 and 11/25/1978.

“David Rivera is a violent and dangerous criminal who needs to be taken off the streets as soon as possible,” said Assistant Secretary Garcia. “One of our most important homeland security missions at ICE is ensuring public safety. With the public’s help and tools like the ‘Most Wanted’ fugitives list, we can work together to identify, apprehend and prosecute fugitives like David Rivera who pose a direct threat to our communities.”

The search for Rivera is part of ICE’s national anti-gang initiative called “Operation Community Shield.” Launched in January 2005 with arrests commencing the following month, this initiative has resulted in the apprehension of more than 200 MS-13 members in cities across the country.

Operation Community Shield is designed to disrupt, dismantle and prosecute violent gang organizations. This initiative also involves strong partnerships and cooperation with existing federal, state, and local anti-gang efforts. Such partnerships are essential to the success of the initiative and to ensure officer safety during operations. ICE will also be working through its 54 Attaché offices overseas to cooperate with foreign governments that are also experiencing gang problems, particularly those in Central America.

The ICE “Most Wanted” fugitives list is one of several steps that ICE has taken to prioritize criminal



### **WANTED BY ICE**

**NAME: David Rivera**  
**SEX: Male**  
**NATIONALITY: Mexico**  
**BIRTHDATE: Oct. 26, 1974**  
**SCARS/MARKS: None Visible**  
**HEIGHT: 5'05" WEIGHT: 135**  
**EYES: Brown HAIR: Black**  
**COMPLEXION: Medium**

threats and focus operational resources where they can be most effective. The list features individuals who have been charged with serious crimes, who have eluded law enforcement, and who pose a continuing threat to public safety and to our homeland.

Other ICE “Most Wanted” fugitives are charged with crimes that include international arms trafficking, drug smuggling, child pornography distribution and human rights violations.

ICE’s “Most Wanted” fugitives are given a top law enforcement priority. The list is posted on the ICE website at [www.ice.gov](http://www.ice.gov), enabling the public to view the criminal aliens and call in tips on their whereabouts. Anyone with information about those on the list should call ICE’s toll-free number at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. The lines are staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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:

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**Russ Bergeron**  
**Editor**

## ICE ARRESTS ILLEGALS WORKING ON NAVY PLANES

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C.— ICE agents, working with the Defense Criminal Investigative Service, arrested nine aliens working illegally at the Smith-Reynolds Airport, where they were employed by a company sub-contracted to refit U.S. Navy P-3 Orion reconnaissance and anti-submarine patrol aircraft.

Eight of the men arrested are citizens of the United Kingdom. One man was from New Zealand. The aliens entered the country under the United States' visa waiver program, which allows citizens of certain countries to use their passport to enter for short business or pleasure stays. They entered the country through various international airports.

All were employed at the airport by Aerospace Manufacturing, Inc. The aliens are known to have actually performed work on the U.S. Navy aircraft. Aliens are prohibited from accepting employment while here on a visa waiver.

"This incident greatly concerns us, given the fact that in March we arrested 27 aliens illegally working at another North Carolina airport," said ICE Resident Agent-in-Charge Tom O'Connell. "ICE is committed to ensuring that access to critical infrastructure such as the aviation industry is restricted to authorized personnel and that vulnerabilities in the immigration system are not exploited."

All of the aliens were detained and placed into removal proceedings for violations of the visa waiver program. ICE intends to revoke the visa waiver status of each alien and remove them from the country.

The arrests are part of ICE's ongoing effort to protect critical national infrastructure. These ar-

rests are also part of Operation Tarmac, which focuses ICE's authorities on protecting the nation's airports. To date, ICE special agents have conducted investigations at about 200 airports nationwide and audited more than 5,800 businesses. More than 5,800 unauthorized workers have been identified, more than



ICE arrested eight aliens in North Carolina who were working illegally for a contractor on the U.S. Navy's P-3 Orion aircraft, shown above. (U.S. Navy Photo)

1,100 unauthorized workers have been arrested and 775 criminal indictments have been issued.

## ICE NABS MAN WANTED FOR CHILD RAPE

LONDON, Ky.—ICE special agents arrested a man May 4 who is wanted by Mexican authorities for raping a child in Mexico.



**Ramirez-Lagunes**

ICE Criminal Alien Program. Although he was using the alias of Paco Ruiz, the subject was positively identified as Alfredo Ramirez-Lagunes after extensive investigative work.

ICE agents were also able to establish that Ramirez-Lagunes had been previously deported under the alias of Marcos Ramirez, and was the same person who is the subject of an international arrest warrant issued by INTERPOL.

"These arrests reflect ICE's com-

mitment to protect children, society's most important and vulnerable assets," said ICE Chicago Assistant Special Agent-in-Charge Stan Travers.

This arrest is part of Operation Predator, a nationwide ICE initiative to protect children from sexual predators, including those who travel overseas for sex with minors, Internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders and child sex traffickers. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 5,500 individuals, including 11 in Kentucky.

ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. Investigators staff this hotline around the clock. Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

## ICE SEIZES 1,300 FAKE BADGES, WARNS PUBLIC

**NEW YORK, N.Y.** — The arrest by ICE of a New York man who had more than 1,300 fake law enforcement badges has raised serious security concerns and prompted ICE to issue a public alert.

Sergio Khorosh, a resident of the Bronx, N.Y., was arrested May 9 by ICE agents. His arrest came after an investigation that began on April 25, when U.S. Customs and Border Protection inspectors in San Francisco intercepted a package from Taiwan that was marked “badges.” The package contained 100 counterfeit U.S. Marshals Service badges imprinted with the stamp of the legitimate manufacturer on the back.

### **See Related Photo, Page 6**

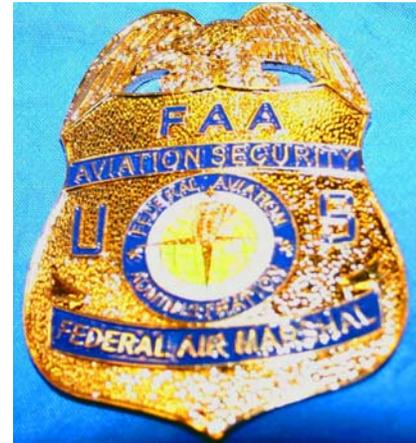
On May 9, an undercover ICE agent arrived at the Bronx apartment to deliver the package containing 100 counterfeit badges to Khorosh. After Khorosh accepted the package, ICE agents executed a search warrant on his apartment where they seized more than 1,000 high-quality

counterfeit badges depicting 35 different federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. ICE agents also seized a number of handguns, rifles, drugs, cash and police equipment, including body armor and uniforms, when they arrested Khorosh, who is a native of Russia and a naturalized United States citizen.

On May 11, ICE issued an advisory to the public to warn of the potential danger presented by the fake badges.

“This seizure has serious Homeland Security and public safety implications, given that these counterfeit badges may have been intended for use by criminals and others with no legal authority to carry law enforcement badges,” the statement said. “ICE agents have launched a full investigation to determine the intended recipients of these badges and to track down any counterfeit badges that may have fallen into the wrong hands.”

The statement reminded the public



**The fake Federal Air Marshal badge shown above was among those seized by ICE agents.**

that a police badge alone does not necessarily reflect law enforcement status. It said legitimate police and law enforcement officers should present credentials with photo identification as well as a badge when conducting their duties.

“This was a truly frightening discovery,” said ICE New York Special Agent-in-Charge Martin Ficke.

## ICE OPENS NEWEST, LARGEST DETENTION FACILITY

**PEARSALL, Texas** — ICE’s Office of Detention and Removal Operations (DRO) formally opened its newest and largest detention facility May 17.

The state-of-the-art South Texas Detention Complex (STDC) in Pearsall, Texas, can accommodate more than 1,000 ICE detainees and includes a 67-person on-site hospital with the latest medical and dental facilities, staffed by Public Health Service employees. The hospital facility includes four zero-atmosphere rooms to contain contagious diseases.

“This is an incredible facility that sets a new standard for excellence,”

said Marc Moore, ICE DRO Field Office Director for San Antonio. “ICE remains steadfast in our commitment to provide a safe, humane and secure environment for all individuals entrusted to our care.”

With various dorm pods to accommodate different groups, the facility can accommodate men in eight pods of 64 and four pods of 32. Another 150 women can be housed in three pods of 40 and two pods of 20. Each dorm pod has a separate secure outdoor exercise area. STDC also contains a high-risk two-story dorm pod.

“The dorm pod is a key feature to modern detention design,” said Moore. “Detainees are separated into manageable groups in the dorm-pod

system. It’s safer for the security guards, and safer for the detainees.”

The STDC is a contract detention facility owned and operated by Correctional Services Corp. (CSC). CSC has a \$1.9 million five-year contract to operate the facility. CSC will provide 268 contract guards and personnel to operate the facility; ICE will provide a staff of 68.

This self-contained facility has its own power and water supply for use in case of an emergency. It also houses four immigration courtrooms. These courtrooms include a video teleconferencing capability to hold hearings for aliens being detained off-site.

## ICE NABS CRIMINAL ALIEN FUGITIVE GUARDING PHILLY GOVERNMENT

**PHILADELPHIA, Pa.**— An illegal alien with an extensive criminal history who fled to avoid deportation was arrested by ICE agents May 12 while working as the lead security guard at the Philadelphia Municipal Services Building.

Kareem Markland, 29, a citizen of Jamaica, was arrested by officers of ICE's Philadelphia Fugitive Operations Unit. At the time of the arrest, ICE officers observed Markland performing the duty of checking identification and issuing photographic identification cards to building visitors.

The Philadelphia Municipal Services Building houses key city government offices, including the Philadelphia City Planning Commission and the city's Department of Commerce. Markland was an employee of Scotland Yard Security, which is contracted by the city to perform guard services.

When arrested, Markland was wearing an identification badge bearing his own photo and the name "Errol Johnson." He was employed under this name and used a Social Security number that was not his own.

"This is exactly why one of our highest priorities is locating fugitive absconders who have fled," said ICE DRO Philadelphia Field Office Director Tom Decker. "At least 85,000 of these aliens are criminals like Markland. They use fraudulent identification cards, bogus or stolen Social Security numbers and any other means they can think of to hide among society. It's very important to know who's standing before you, guarding your building or working for your business because your life may literally depend on it."

Markland was so confident of his assumed identity that when an ICE officer was sent to conduct surveillance and confirm Markland was in the building, he checked the ICE officer's identification without hesitation and waived the officer through the checkpoint.

## ICE ARRESTS HAITIAN MAN WHO ADMITTED HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSE

**ORLANDO, Fla.** — A 33-year-old Haitian human rights abuser who has been on the run since 1998 was arrested May 10 by ICE detention and removal officers.

Nesmy Leonidas is a self-confessed Haitian human rights abuser who claimed membership in the "Special Army Attaché Unit" in Haiti. The unit was comprised of civilians representing the Army in L'Asile, Haiti.

Leonidas, who is linked to having caused death to 20 Aristide and Lavalas supporters, has confessed to killing one person during a Lavalas demonstration. ICE records revealed that Leonidas entered the United States illegally March 25, 1998, through the U.S. Virgin Islands. Leonidas was ordered removed in absentia by an immigration on Dec. 7, 1998.

"The United States will not be a safe haven for human rights abusers," said Michael Rozos, Field Office Director for ICE's Office of Detention and Removal Operations in Florida. "Those who think that they can run from their past are sorely mistaken."

The criminal investigators of ICE's Human Rights Violators Unit and the attorneys of its counterpart Human Rights Law Division are presently pursuing more than 200 cases of suspected human rights abusers.

## US-VISIT ACHIEVES BIG RESULTS IN PROTECTING U.S. HOMELAND

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — US-VISIT, a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) program that collects biometric and biographic data from visa applicants and visitors to the United States, has achieved unprecedented results in helping U.S. agencies identify criminals and other violators seeking entry to the country, senior DHS officials announced May 17.

Created in January 2004 and administered by DHS, the US-VISIT Program is a continuum of security measures that collects biometric data, such as fingerprints and biographic information from visitors at U.S. visa-issuing posts worldwide and upon their arrival at, and departure from, U.S. air, sea and land ports.

In its first 17 months, the matching of fingerprints and biographic information against the US-VISIT database enabled State Department consular officers to deny visas to approximately 7,000 applicants, more than a third of whom were identified because their prints matched U.S. government law enforcement and security lists.

At the same time, fingerprints and other data from US-VISIT have enabled inspectors from U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to deny entry to 594 people who arrived at U.S. borders seeking entry. Furthermore, the US-VISIT program has helped special agents from ICE arrest 39 people through fingerprint matches, investigative leads and other information.

"In the past, criminals and others who were the subject of lookouts needed only a new name to slip across our borders. With US-VISIT, fingerprints reveal the true identity underneath any alias," said Assistant Secretary Michael Garcia.

## Inside ICE

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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, immigration, customs, infrastructure and transportation security laws.**

### ***FAKE BADGES AND MORE***



*ICE agents and other law enforcement officers view some of the weapons, police equipment and more than 1,300 fake badges seized by ICE agents May 9 in New York. Sergio Khorosh, a resident of the Bronx, N.Y., was arrested by ICE agents, and ICE warned the public that a police badge alone does not necessarily reflect law enforcement status. It said legitimate police and law enforcement officers should present credentials with photo identification as well as a badge when conducting their duties.*