



Inside ICE

ICE CASE LEADS TO U.K. MAN'S ARREST FOR SUPPORTING TERRORIST GROUPS

An ICE terrorism investigation has led to the arrest of a man in London on charges that he used the Internet to provide material support to terrorists, launder money intended for terrorist attacks and solicit recruits for terrorist acts.

British authorities arrested Babar Ahmad August 5 on a U.S. arrest warrant, and U.S. officials plan to seek Ahmed's extradition.

Assistant Secretary Michael Garcia said, "The arrest of Ahmad represents the culmination of three years of sophisticated electronic detective work by ICE agents, in conjunction with the FBI, the New Haven Joint Terrorism Task Force and British authorities. This individual is accused of soliciting money, equipment and personnel via his website to help designated terrorist groups conduct jihad against the United States and other nations. Removing Ahmad from the streets and from cyberspace is a significant achievement in ICE's ongoing efforts to secure America's homeland."

The criminal complaint against Ahmad charges that between 1997 and 2003 he operated a series of pro-jihad web sites via an Internet Service Providers (ISP) in Connecticut, Nevada and outside the U.S. Using these web sites, Ahmad allegedly solicited money, equipment, and personnel to help designated terrorists conduct jihad against the U.S. and other nations.

Postings on the web site described the need for Muslims to engage in violent attacks against infidels, appealed for financial support and provided instructions on how to enter Islamic war zones. The web sites also provided very explicit instructions on how to raise funds for and then transmit them to the Taliban. One

site instructed Pakistani nationals on how they could travel to Afghanistan to fight for the Taliban.

The investigation began in October 2001, and also involved British authorities, the Internal Revenue Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the criminal investigative services of the U.S. Navy and U.S. Department of Defense. Law enforcement officials executed nine search warrants, issued 102 subpoenas and accumulated 500 gigabytes of electronic data in the case.

In December 2003, agents from the Anti-Terrorist Branch of New Scotland Yard executed several search warrants at locations linked to Ahmad. Among the items seized were the operations plans for a U.S. naval battle group operating in the Straits of Hormuz in April 2001. Most important, the document specifically described the battle group's vulnerability and provides specific examples on how the ships might be attacked.

Evidence collected during the investigation also linked Ahmad to a Chechen Mujahideen leader who participated in the planning of the Moscow theater attack in October 2002.

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SUCCESS MARKS FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF SEVIS

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) marked the one-year anniversary of the requirement for all international student and exchange visitors to register with the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) August 2, noting the progress that the web-based student registration system has made in its first twelve months.

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SEVIS was established as a nationwide system for maintaining information on foreign students and exchange visitors to the United States. SEVIS also allows schools and federal authorities to manage the traffic of international students and exchange visitors into and out of the United States. In its first year, the program was a striking success, streamlining the process for international students and visitors entering the United States. In June, SEVIS was recognized with the E-Gov Institute's Pioneer Award for best practices in improved operations through innovative applications and streamlined processes.

"The vast majority of students who come to the United States do so to benefit from our academic institutions. Unfortunately, a few of those purporting to come here for that purpose have exploited the system to cause us harm," said Assistant Secretary Michael Garcia. "The worst examples are those who have committed terrorist acts on our soil,

such as the driver of the explosive-laden van in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing and a number of the 9/11 hijackers. SEVIS helps ensure that people coming here to study do just that, and puts the rule of law back into our immigration system by ensuring that violators will face consequences."

In the SEVIS program's first year, 8,737 schools and exchange visitor programs, representing more than 9,500 campuses, have been certified to participate in the program. As of July 2004, there are more than 770,000 students and exchange visitors (F-1, M-1 and J-1 visa categories) approved to study in the United States whose data is being managed by SEVIS. In addition, SEVIS maintains records on more than 100,000 dependents of students and exchange visitors.

"We welcome foreign students to our country. Through SEVIS, U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers can quickly verify that students presenting themselves at our borders are actual students and exchange visitors," said U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Robert C. Bonner. "The program is a necessity in the post-9/11 environment to ensure that terrorists do not enter our country under false pretenses."

Anticipating that many schools, individual students and exchange visitors might have difficulty meeting the August 1, 2003, compliance date, ICE created a special SEVIS Response Team (SRT) to assist stu-



Susan Geary, acting director of the Student and Exchange Visitor Program Office, briefs on the success of SEVIS during a forum held at the Heritage Foundation August 2 in Washington, D.C., in observation of the program's first year.

dents and exchange visitors who may not have been registered in the SEVIS system by the deadline. The SRT worked with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers and other SEVIS users to resolve issues related to admission into the United States. By February 2004, the SRT experienced a dramatic decline in the volume of cases and calls - another indication that SEVIS is working. System improvements, including a 24-hour-a-day SEVIS Help Desk, made it unnecessary to deploy SRTs this Fall.

Under Secretary for Border and Transportation Security Asa Hutchinson offered the keynote address at a forum to evaluate SEVIS' first-year successes at the Heritage Foundation. Hutchinson emphasized the importance of SEVIS to the U.S. immigration system and how SEVIS has helped facilitate international students coming into the United States to study.

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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UNPRECEDENTED ICE, CHINESE IPR INVESTIGATION DISMANTLES WORLDWIDE COUNTERFEIT NETWORK

ICE, the Chinese Ministry of Public Security (MPS) and the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) on July 30 announced the results of the first-ever joint law enforcement investigation by ICE and Chinese authorities targeting a network that distributed counterfeit motion pictures worldwide.

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On July 1, officers from the Economic Crime Investigation Department of the Chinese MPS and the Shanghai Public Security Bureau carried out enforcement actions in China that resulted in the arrest of six individuals, including at least one American citizen. The arrested U.S. citizen is Randolph Hobson Guthrie III, aka Randy Guthrie, age 37, who has lived in Shanghai for nearly ten years and also lists addresses in New York, Miami Beach and Palm Beach.

In addition, the enforcement actions in China led to the seizure of more than 210,000 counterfeit motion picture DVDs and approximately \$67,000 in U.S. currency as well as 222,000 Chinese Renminbi (RNB). Chinese authorities also located and destroyed three warehouses that were being used to store counterfeit motion picture DVDs for distribution around the globe, including the United States.

The arrests and seizures are the product of a joint effort between ICE agents and Chinese law enforcement called "Operation Spring." Launched in Sept. 2003 by the ICE Resident Agent-in-Charge office in Gulfport, Miss., and investigated jointly with the Special Agent-in-Charge in Houston, Texas, the investigation grew to include the

ICE Attaché in Beijing, China, the ICE Special Agent-in-Charge office in Houston and the ICE Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Center in Washington, D.C. The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Mississippi also played a key role in the investigation.

In April 2004, agents assigned to the ICE Attaché in Beijing reached out to Chinese authorities and began sharing information on the investigation. After months of joint investigation with ICE, Chinese authorities were able to develop sufficient evidence against the suspects and their global counterfeit sales network to make arrests. The Shanghai Public Security Bureau launched its enforcement actions on July 1 and continues to investigate the case in conjunction with ICE.

The MPAA provided crucial assistance and information to U.S. and Chinese law enforcement agencies in this case. In total, the MPAA estimates that the U.S. motion picture industry loses more than \$3.5 billion annually in potential worldwide revenue due to piracy. This landmark case illustrates the effectiveness of ICE's Cornerstone initiative, which targets the alternative financing mechanisms that terrorist and other criminal organizations could use to earn, move and store assets. Intellectual property rights violations provide a lucrative source of funding increasingly exploited by organized criminal groups. In recent years, intellectual property crime has grown exponentially. High demand for consumer goods such as DVDs, CDs and computer software also feeds the problem.

Cornerstone Event Invitation

Inside ICE readers are invited to a Cornerstone event featuring an important announcement about an innovative partnership with private industry. The event, hosted by Assistant Secretary Michael Garcia, will be held at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., Aug. 26 from 9:30-11 a.m. For additional information and reservations e-mail Adrienne Joves at Adrienne.Joves@dhs.gov or call 202-305-0843.

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ICE CHOPPER, CBP TEAM UP FOR BORDER BUST

ICE Air and Marine Operations (AMO) pilots and crew teamed with law enforcement officers on both sides of the border August 3 to thwart a smuggling scheme in the Nogales area involving nearly two tons of marijuana.

A Tucson-based ICE Black Hawk helicopter was gearing up for its

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daily patrol as part of the Arizona Border Control (ABC) initiative when the crew heard radio traffic about U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Border Patrol agents coming under fire in the Nogales area. When ICE's Black Hawk reached the location, CBP Border Patrol agents had intercepted a vehicle containing more than 1,800 lbs. of marijuana. However, a second vehicle escaped and headed into Mexico.

The pilot and crew on board the ICE Black Hawk kept the fleeing vehicle in sight and alerted law enforcement officials in Mexico. Mexican authorities ultimately located the second vehicle in Nogales, Sonora, and found more than 1,700 lbs. of marijuana inside. Mexican authorities advise that they arrested three individuals in connection with the incident.

"This is yet another example of the outstanding law enforcement teamwork that's happening on both sides of the Arizona border," said Field Director Martin Vaughan of ICE's Tucson Air Branch. "That cooperation is helping keep residents in both nations safer."

The August 3 activity caps one of the busiest months for ICE's Tucson Air Branch since the launch of the ABC Initiative in March. In July alone, ICE's Tucson-based air

fleet helped rescue 79 stranded migrants and aided with 48 felony arrests, including the capture of a man wanted for assaulting a federal officer. Last month, the Tucson Air Branch played a central role in the seizure of more than 5,600 lbs. of marijuana.

The Tucson Air Branch of ICE's Office of Air and Marine Operations (AMO) plays a vital role in the ABC Initiative, providing crucial intelligence gathering, enforcement and humanitarian support. The Tucson Air Branch maintains an inventory of 13 aircraft - five Citation interceptor jets, four Black Hawk helicopters and four light observation planes.

These high-speed aircraft can travel substantial distances without refuel-



ICE Black Hawk helicopters like the one shown above are playing a key role in surveillance, interdiction and search-and-rescue operations in support of the Arizona Border Control initiative.

ing, enabling them to cover hundreds of square miles in a single flight, an important advantage when the target area includes vast stretches of international border. In addition, the Black Hawk helicopters can land in rugged terrain and transport up to 10 passengers, making them invaluable for rescue and evacuation operations in remote and inaccessible areas.

MAN WITH VIDEOTAPES INDICTED

A Pakistani man who had videotaped buildings, dams and transportation facilities in major U.S. cities like Atlanta, Austin, Houston, Dallas, and New Orleans has been indicted on immigration charges.

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Kamran Akhtar, aka Kamran Shaikh, a 36-year-old native of Pakistan living in New York, was arrested August 10 following an investigation of immigration violations where Akhtar allegedly made materially false statements to an ICE agent in Charlotte, N.C.

Police in Charlotte questioned Akhtar July 20 after discovering him videotaping in the downtown area. He was later questioned by ICE agents assigned to the Joint Terrorism Task Force and falsely claimed he was a legal permanent resident of the U.S. Subsequent investigation revealed Akhtar had illegally crossed the U.S. border in 1991 and had been ordered removed from the U.S. by an immigration judge in 1998.

A review of tapes in Akhtar's possession revealed the extensive video of various locations throughout the U.S.

MAN LINKED TO ASSASSINATION PLOT WITH LIBYA PLEADS GUILTY

Abdurahman Alamoudi, once one of the most prominent Muslim leaders in the United States, pleaded guilty in the Eastern District of Virginia on July 30 to three criminal violations and admitted his role in a Libya-sponsored plot to assassinate Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah.

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The founder of the American Muslim Foundation and the

American Muslim Council, Alamoudi pleaded guilty to conducting prohibited financial transactions with Libya; making false statements in his application for U.S. citizenship; and violating U.S. tax laws by concealing his foreign bank accounts, concealing his financial transactions with Libya, and omitting information from tax returns that were filed by Alamoudi charities.

Alamoudi agreed that he should be sentenced under the terrorism provision of the federal sentencing guidelines for his participation in a plot by Libyan government officials to kill the leader of Saudi Arabia. According to the statement of facts agreed upon by Alamoudi, he helped recruit two Saudi dissidents in London for the assassination plot and facilitated the transfer of hundreds of thousands of dollars from Libyan government officials to those dissidents to help finance the plot to assassinate the Saudi leader.

The arrest and subsequent indictment of Alamoudi were the result of a long-term investigation by ICE agents in northern Virginia, in conjunction with the FBI and the IRS. Agents from ICE and the FBI arrested Alamoudi on September 28, 2003 after he arrived at Dulles International Airport. He was later charged in an 18-count federal indictment in the Eastern District of Virginia.

As a result of his guilty plea, Alamoudi faces a potential 23-year prison sentence, seven years supervised release, revocation of his U.S. citizenship, and \$750,000 in fines. He is also required to forfeit all proceeds from his dealings with Libya, which total at least \$910,000. Under the terms of his plea agreement, Alamoudi is also required to cooperate fully and completely with federal agents.

"Alamoudi pleaded guilty to immigration fraud and engaging in illegal transactions with Libya, both crimes within ICE's traditional law enforcement authority. This case clearly shows how those powerful tools are being effectively used to address threats to our homeland security," said Assistant Secretary Michael Garcia.

DRO OFFICER STOPS REMOVAL, SAVES CRIMINAL PROSECUTION

Removing illegal aliens, especially criminal aliens, from the U.S. is the primary mission of officers assigned to ICE's Detention and Removal Office. But ironically, it was the professional work of an ICE DRO officer in Chicago that prevented a deportation and saved an important criminal prosecution.

Chicago ICE DRO Field Office Deportation Officer Sylvia Mano was asked to assist Houston authorities in locating two alien juvenile witnesses who were needed to testify in a case involving hostage taking and alien smuggling in which one person was killed. Mano helped locate the witnesses in Chicago, but discovered they were scheduled to be removed from the country before they could testify.

Mano then effectively stopping the impending deportations and the witnesses were returned to Houston to assist in the trial. Mano's actions allowed the prosecution against a defendant with two aggravated felony convictions to proceed. The U.S. Attorney's Office in Houston commended Mano and the Chicago ICE DRO Office for their work in saving the prosecution.

ICE ARRESTS TWO MEN WHO LURED MINORS ON INTERNET

Two separate investigations by ICE special agents led to two Grand Forks, N.D., men being arrested last month for attempting to use the Internet to lure minors into a sexual liaison.

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Paul Robert Dickson, 47, and Russell Paul

Nicholls, 31, both of Grand Forks, each allegedly arranged to meet a 15-year-old girl at an area motel parking lot for sex. Actually, the men were communicating with undercover ICE special agents. The men were arrested separately when they arrived for the meetings.

"These men were preying on what they assumed were vulnerable kids," said Resident Agent-in-Charge Michael Mach of the Grand Forks ICE office. "This should be a wake-up call to all parents: always know who your children are communicating with, especially on the Internet."

The arrests are part of ICE's Operation Predator, an initiative to safeguard children from foreign national pedophiles, human traffickers, international sex tourists and Internet pornographers.

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, 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.

Got You Covered

Inspector Paul McManus of ICE's Federal Protective Service (FPS) helps a youngster try on a protective helmet used by FPS officers. The "fitting" occurred during the National Night Out event in South Burlington, Vt.

