



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE ARRESTED 685 FUGITIVE ALIENS IN SAN DIEGO SINCE OCT. 1 *Nearly half have felony convictions ranging from murder to child molestation*

SAN DIEGO - U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) deportation officers apprehended 685 immigration fugitives in the San Diego area since Oct. 1, including more than 300 individuals with prior criminal convictions that ranged from murder to assault, robbery and child molestation.

The San Diego area arrests are part of a national effort by ICE to locate, arrest, and remove immigration fugitives, with top priority given to those with criminal records.

Under ICE's Alien Absconder Initiative, ICE deportation officers around the country have arrested more than 8,272 immigration fugitives during the past year. In overall arrests, San Diego ranks second nationwide, behind only Los Angeles.

Among the immigration absconders arrested by ICE officers here recently was a 36-year-old Filipino man with multiple prior arrests and convictions for child molestation, soliciting lewd acts, burglary, and battery. After exhausting all avenues of legal relief, he was ordered to leave the country in May, but refused to do so. He had been living in the South Bay with family members who were helping him evade authorities. Officers arrested him at his job in National City.

"Our officers are tracking down those who have willfully ignored a court order and are living illegally in our communities," said Ron Smith, field office director for ICE Detention and Removal in San Diego. "Many of these fugitives are violent criminals who pose a real threat to the public's safety."

Many of those arrested have been ordered to depart the United States by immigration judges or their criminal convictions constitute violations of immigration law, so they are eligible for immediate removal to their countries of origin.

The initiative is part of a long-term national strategic plan to apprehend and remove the more than 400,000 immigration fugitives and 80,000 criminal aliens who have been ordered to leave the country, but are hiding to avoid deportation.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). ICE seeks to prevent acts of terrorism by targeting the people, money and materials that support terror and criminal networks.