



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

September 29, 2004

# News Release

## **IOWA SEX OFFENDER STRIPPED OF U.S. CITIZENSHIP**

ROCK ISLAND, Ill.—A Fairfield, Iowa man who molested a relative over a six-year period prior to becoming a U.S. citizen was stripped of his citizenship and ordered deported Monday by a chief judge here in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa.

Luis Mancilla-Ruiz, 44, who emigrated from Mexico and later became a naturalized U.S. citizen, was arrested May 17 by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents from Cedar Rapids, assisted by the Fairfield Police Department.

Mancilla-Ruiz was charged with making a false statement under oath when he applied for citizenship and with fraud in unlawfully procuring United States citizenship.

The chain of events that led to Monday's conviction began when Mancilla-Ruiz was arrested in 2002 by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department and convicted in February 2004 of having committed "Lascivious Acts with a Child." The victim was five years old when Mancilla-Ruiz began molesting her in 1993.

Even though Mancilla-Ruiz was convicted of the crime after being naturalized in 2000, he was not legally qualified to obtain U.S. citizenship because he had already committed the offense. Questions on the federal form N-400, "Application for Naturalization," ask not only whether the applicant has been convicted of any crimes, but also asks, "Have you ever committed a crime or offense for which you were not arrested?" Mancilla-Ruiz lied when he answered "no" to that question.

In addition to revoking his U.S. citizenship, Chief Judge Ronald E. Longstaff issued an order of removal that directs ICE to deport Mancilla-Ruiz to Mexico.

“We will not allow child molesters to hide behind the cloak of U.S. citizenship,” said Resident Agent-in-Charge Michael Vail of the ICE office in Cedar Rapids. “Foreign-born sexual predators who victimize the most vulnerable among us have forfeited their right to remain in this country, and we will take steps to remove them.”

This arrest was part of Operation Predator, an ICE initiative designed to protect children worldwide from sexual predators, including those who travel overseas for sex with minors, Internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, and child sex traffickers. Since the launch of Operation Predator in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 4,000 sexual predators nationwide, 57 of them in Iowa.

Fusing the authorities and resources of virtually every ICE component, Operation Predator targets United States citizens suspected of sex crimes against children abroad, as well as non-citizens whose child sex crimes render them deportable from the United States.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.*