



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE ARRESTS 7 IN SOUTHWESTERN WASHINGTON OPERATION *Fugitive Operations Team Targets Deportable Aliens*

SEATTLE—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Detention and Removal officers made seven arrests throughout southwest Washington this week targeting immigration fugitives, including an individual with prior criminal convictions for rape and assault.

The arrests occurred between Sunday and Tuesday in Vancouver and Woodland, Wash.

This week's arrests are part of a national initiative by ICE to locate, arrest, and remove immigration fugitives, particularly those individuals with criminal records. 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. In the past year, ICE's Seattle-based Fugitive Operations team has apprehended 341 aliens for removal from the U.S.

"These fugitive operations are designed specifically to identify and apprehend those who have ignored court orders for their removal," said Neil Clark, field office director for ICE Detention and Removal in Seattle. "The apprehension and removal of violent criminal aliens is a high priority for ICE. These efforts make our communities safer."

Two of the individuals arrested this week have a history of criminal activity. One Mexican national has been convicted of second-degree assault, first-degree rape, and driving under the influence (DUI). Another alien, a Guatemalan, has also been convicted of DUI. The seven individuals arrested include five Guatemalans, one Mexican, and one Belarus national.

ICE

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