



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE DEPORTS ACCUSED ECUADORIAN COP KILLER

Suspect thought U.S. officials did not know his true identity after convictions under an assumed name

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced today that it has completed the deportation of accused cop killer Reinaldo Gustavo Zamora-Sandoya, one of Ecuador's most wanted fugitives.

A self-proclaimed folk hero to Ecuadorians who goes by the nickname "El Rey" or "The King," Zamora-Sandoya, a citizen of Ecuador, was convicted of crimes in the United States under the assumed name "Edwin Andrades-Rojas" and believed federal officials did not know his real identity.

"The deportation of foreign-citizen criminals like this individual is a top priority of ICE," said Director Victor X. Cerda, who leads the agency's Office of Detention and Removal. "Our officers and agents work very closely with international, federal, state and local law enforcement and corrections personnel to identify those people whose crimes make them deportable. The individual in this case was trying to hide in the prison system under a fake name, but we determined his true identity. He's being returned to Ecuador for violation of immigration law and will have to answer for the crimes he is accused of."

Zamora-Sandoya is accused of killing two police officers while robbing a bank and then throwing money into the street in order to attract a crowd and facilitate his escape. While imprisoned in the United States, Zamora-Sandoya openly boasted that he was never arrested or convicted for murdering the police officers.

Wanted by police in Ecuador, he illegally entered the United States sometime during 1993.

Zamora-Sandoya was arrested in New York City March 2, 1995, for Grand Larceny, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property, Unauthorized Use of a Vehicle, Resisting Arrest and Reckless Endangerment. He was convicted and sentenced to nine months in prison.

On Dec. 9, 1998, he was again arrested in New York and was convicted for Conspiracy to Obstruct Via Robbery (using a gun). For this crime, a judge sentenced Zamora-Sandoya to 95 months incarceration and ordered him to pay \$1.35 million in restitution under a payment schedule of \$50 per month.

Zamora-Sandoya completed his sentence Sept. 7 at the Federal Correctional Institution at Ray Brook, New York. He was immediately taken into custody by ICE's detention and removal officers and placed in the Batavia, New York, detention facility.

He was escorted from the United States by ICE deportation officers and Ecuadorian police.

ICE

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