



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

FUGITIVE RAPIST ARRESTED AT ICE HOUSTON OFFICE *Salvadoran is wanted in Arlington, Va., for raping girl in 1990.*

HOUSTON— A Salvadoran wanted for rape of a child in Virginia was arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents here today after attempting to apply for an immigration benefit under an alias at a Homeland Security office.

Adino Vasquez, 35, stated and wrote his name as "Carlos Diaz" for immigration officials, but a routine check of a criminal database determined his real identity and that he is wanted on a bench warrant out of Arlington, Va.

Vasquez illegally entered the United States near San Diego, Calif., in 1990. He resided in the Arlington area, and was indicted by a grand jury on rape charges in 1993. After failing to appear in court, Arlington officials issued a warrant for his arrest.

Vasquez was applying for immigration benefits at the Houston office of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), a Homeland Security agency co-located with the Houston ICE office. USCIS officers routinely run background and fingerprint checks for those applying for many immigration benefits. The checks revealed Vasquez is a wanted aggravated felon in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and ICE special agents were notified of Vasquez' fugitive status.

“Criminal aliens who think they can fool the system by changing names are only fooling themselves,” said Joseph R. Webber, ICE Houston special agent-in-charge. “Our immigration databases and the Homeland Security team work together to identify, locate and arrest these fugitives.”

Additionally, Vasquez allegedly lied on his immigration petitions and to immigration officers about his real identity and criminal history.

In accordance with the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1996, Vasquez was placed into removal proceedings pending the outcome of his criminal trial in Arlington. If convicted, he will be deported after serving his sentence. Arrangements have been made to transfer Vasquez to Arlington.

The arrest comes under Operation Predator, a nationwide ICE initiative designed to protect children from sexual predators, including those who travel overseas for sex with minors, Internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, and child sex traffickers. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 4,000 sexual predators.

ICE

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