



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

APPEALS BOARD: DEPORTATION FOR SALVADORAN SEX OFFENDER

SAN FRANCISCO – The Board of Immigration Appeals has ruled in favor of an appeal by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to have a 31-year-old El Salvadoran convicted of sexually assaulting an unconscious woman deported to El Salvador.

The ruling was significant in that the board rejected Juan Alberto Fuentes-Fuentes' legal arguments that his offense was non-violent and that the sexual assault was not a “particularly serious crime.”

Fuentes was convicted in 1998 of sexually assaulting his friend’s girlfriend as she slept. After serving 15 months of a three-year prison sentence, Fuentes was placed in immigration removal proceedings.

Despite Fuentes' convicted sex offender status, an immigration judge ruled Fuentes was eligible to become a lawful permanent resident based on his 2002 marriage to a U.S. citizen. ICE appealed the decision.

“This is not only a victory for ICE, it’s also an important ruling for the victim whose life was devastated by this assault,” said ICE's Deputy Chief Counsel Len Rosenberg in San Francisco. “We are committed to using all of the legal tools and authorities at our disposal to protect our communities from sexual predators and the heartbreak their crimes cause.”

ICE

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