



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

MEXICAN GANG MEMBERS PLEAD GUILTY TO WEAPONS CHARGES *Grand Rapids police arrested trio just before they were to rob drug house*

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced that three men from Mexico with ties to a violent street gang here each pleaded guilty in court here today to federal firearms charges and to being in the United States illegally.

Jorge Sanchez-Robles, Juan Carlos Quintino-Reyes, and Isreal Mosqueda-Lopez --all in their early 20s-- were arrested after a traffic stop by Grand Rapids Police in May revealed that they possessed loaded firearms, were each wearing two sets of clothing, and they were carrying latex gloves.

A subsequent investigation by ICE agents revealed that they were en route to commit an armed robbery at a known drug house in the Grand Rapids area. The investigation determined that the three intended to invade the house, steal drugs and money, and then shoot any occupants inside.

ICE special agents conducted extensive immigration and criminal history checks after all three were arrested and determined that all three are in the country illegally. A search of their residence found .38-caliber ammunition, a fraudulent Social Security card. The search also uncovered a counterfeit Resident Alien Card that had Sanchez-Robles' picture on it, but had a different name printed on it.

“Our agents continue to work vigilantly to remove criminal aliens and dangerous gang members from our communities,” said ICE Detroit Special Agent-in-Charge Brian M. Moskowitz. “The excellent work done on this case will remove this threat from the community.”

All three individuals pleaded guilty to violating Title 18 USC, Section 922 (g)(5) "Being Aliens Illegal in the U.S.", and Title 18 USC, Section 924 (a)(2) "Possessing Firearms in the Furtherance of a Drug Trafficking Crime and a Crime of Violence." Sanchez-Robles was charged additionally with violating Title 18 USC, Section 1546, "Possession of a Counterfeit Resident Alien Card."

Sentencing is scheduled for Jan. 4, 2005.

The plea came in the U.S. District Court; Western District of Michigan with Judge Gordon Quist presided. U.S. Attorney Tim Verhey presented prosecution in the case. Additional assistance was provided by the Grand Rapids Police Department.

ICE

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