



**U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement**

**News Releases**

**March 1, 2007**

**New Jersey fugitive teams arrest 363 in two-month operation**  
***Return to Sender enforces orders issued by immigration judges***

NEWARK, NJ – U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers deployed across New Jersey targeting dozens of known fugitive aliens in an intensive two-month operation that resulted in the arrest of 363 fugitives, criminals and illegal aliens. The enforcement action was part of operation Return to Sender, a nationwide ICE program that targets, locates and apprehends immigration fugitives. ICE has three fugitive operations teams in New Jersey.

During January ICE officers apprehended 89 fugitives and 131 other aliens illegally present in the United States. In February officers apprehended 67 fugitives and 76 others illegally present in the country.

Forty-eight of those arrested during the operation have criminal records including convictions for domestic violence, assault, unlawful possession of a weapon, distribution of a controlled dangerous substance, possession of a controlled dangerous substance, bank fraud, theft, possession of stolen property, alien smuggling, resisting arrest and eluding police.

“Our message is clear. ICE will use all of its resources to track down, arrest and remove individuals who believe they can defy immigration judges,” said Bartolome Rodriguez, acting field office director for ICE’s office of detention and removal in Newark. “People who choose to disobey a judge’s order are fugitives and ICE is mandated by Congress to enforce final orders of removal.”

Those arrested during the ICE operation come from 26 different countries, including Mexico, Ecuador, Malaysia, Guatemala, El Salvador, Egypt, Brazil, India, Slovenia, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Albania and Honduras.

Some of those arrested had been released on bond, while others had been freed on their own recognizance. The subjects became fugitives when they failed to appear for their immigration hearings, or when they failed to leave the United States as ordered.

The fugitives arrested will remain in ICE custody pending their final removal from the country. Other individuals arrested have been placed in immigration removal proceedings.

The New Jersey operation is part of the nationwide interior immigration enforcement strategy announced last year by Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff and ICE Assistant

Secretary Julie L. Myers. A critical element of that strategy is to identify, locate and remove criminal aliens, fugitives, and other immigration violators from the United States.

Since the start of operation Return to Sender, fugitive teams around the nation have arrested 3,149 fugitives and illegal aliens.

The interior enforcement strategy is part of the Department of Homeland Security's broader Secure Border Initiative (SBI), a multi-year plan to secure America's borders and reduce illegal migration. Those efforts are focused on gaining operational control of the nation's borders through the deployment of additional personnel and technology, while re-engineering the detention and removal system to ensure that illegal aliens are quickly removed from the country.

-- ICE --

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.



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## **News Releases**

**May 1, 2007**

### **ICE Fugitive Operations Teams arrest 217 immigration violators *37 criminal aliens apprehended during statewide enforcement operation***

NEWARK, N.J. - U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) today announced the successful completion of a three-week targeted law enforcement operation in New Jersey that resulted in the arrest of 217 immigration violators and alien fugitives, including 37 with criminal records.

As part of "Operation Return to Sender," a nationwide ICE program to reduce illegal immigration, ICE Fugitive Operation Teams (FOTs) fanned out across the Garden state to arrest priority criminal and fugitive aliens. ICE has three fugitive operation teams in New Jersey.

From April 9 to April 27, ICE officers arrested 75 fugitives. The 142 individuals apprehended were aliens illegally present in the United States. The individuals arrested during the three-week statewide operation came from the following 32 countries: Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Mexico, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Nicaragua, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Trinidad, Uruguay, and Yugoslavia.

"For ICE, removing criminal and fugitive aliens from our streets and neighborhoods is a agency-wide initiative that improves our national security and combats the rise in local crime rates," said acting field office director Bartolome Rodriguez, who leads ICE's detention and removal efforts in Newark. "Our Fugitive Operation Teams work closely with local law enforcement partners throughout the year identifying dangerous criminal aliens and placing them in removal proceedings."

Criminal convictions among those arrested include sexual assault, child abuse, domestic violence, theft, criminal mischief, weapons charges, counterfeit credit cards, identity theft, burglary, possession of drugs with the intent to distribute, terroristic threats, patronizing prostitution, aggravated assault, and driving under the influence. Highlighted arrests include:

- David Monroy-Garcia, a 34 year-old Mexican national arrested for punching and kicking his pregnant girl's stomach in an attempt to kill their unborn baby. The baby survived. Monroy-Garcia is convicted of terroristic threats.
- Wen Tuan Wu, a 38 year-old Chinese national arrested in Atlantic City for felony theft of moveable property.
- Edgar Gomez Romero, a 32 year-old Mexican national convicted of assault, burglary and

## CE Fugitive Operations Teams arrest 217 immigration violators

criminal mischief.

- Wesley Stephen Retemiah, a 41-year-old Guyanan national convicted of multiple drug offenses and weapons possession.

subjects became fugitives when they defied an order from a federal immigration judge and failed to leave the United States. All of the fugitives had the opportunity for full due process under the law. The fugitives arrested will remain in ICE custody pending their final removal from the country. The other individuals arrested have been placed in immigration removal proceedings.

The New Jersey operation is part of the nationwide interior immigration enforcement strategy announced in 2005 by Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff and ICE Assistant Secretary Julie L. Myers. A critical element of that strategy is to identify, locate and remove criminal aliens, fugitives, and other immigration violators from the United States.

The interior enforcement strategy is part of the Department of Homeland Security's broader Secure Border Initiative (SBI), a multi-year plan to secure America's borders and reduce illegal migration. Those efforts are focused on gaining operational control of the nation's borders through the deployment of additional personnel and technology, while re-engineering the detention and removal system to ensure that illegal aliens are quickly removed from the country.

Since May 26, 2006, New Jersey's Operation Return to Sender has resulted in the arrest of over 1,585 immigration violators, including 253 criminal aliens.

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## **News Releases**

**October 19, 2006**

### **New Jersey operation nets 111 fugitive alien and other immigration status violators** *Arrests are result of Operation Return to Sender*

NEWARK, N.J. – U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers fanned out across New Jersey targeting dozens of known fugitive aliens in an intensive seven-day operation that resulted in the arrest of 111 fugitives and illegal aliens. Dozens of ICE officers participated in Return to Sender, a national operation that targets, locates and apprehends immigration fugitives.

Sixty-five of those arrested were targets of the operation that have outstanding warrants of removal. Another 46 individuals were apprehended because they are illegally in the United States. Of the 111 people arrested 34 have criminal records.

Beginning on the morning of October 12, teams of ICE officers in New Jersey targeted fugitive aliens: those who have been ordered deported by immigration judges but who chose to defy the court's order. Those arrested during the ICE operation come from 22 different countries, including: Mexico, Brazil, Columbia, Egypt, Guatemala, Ecuador, Syria, India, and Peru.

Scott Weber, field office director for ICE's office of Detention and Removal Operations in Newark said, "Illegal aliens who defy the removal order of a United States Immigration Judge should be on notice that we have dedicated significant resources towards locating, targeting and arresting them. We cannot and will not allow those who violate our laws to remain in the U.S. in violation of our laws."

Among those arrested during Operation Return to Sender are:

1. Raj Kumar Arora, a citizen of India, was arrested in Newark on a fugitive warrant. Arora was convicted of criminal sexual contact in Essex County and ordered removed from the United States.
2. Pedro Trejo-Ortega, a citizen of Ecuador, was ordered removed by an Immigration Judge in March 2000. After failing to report for removal as ordered, Trejo-Ortega became a fugitive. Trejo has prior felony convictions for criminal sexual contact and

receiving stolen property in New Jersey. Trejo also has convictions for larceny and assault in New York.

3. Cristiano Gerardo Da Silva Pina, a citizen of Portugal, Da Silva became a fugitive after being ordered removed in 2001. He also has criminal convictions for receiving stolen property and forgery and arrests for receiving stolen property, damaging property, burglary, soliciting prostitution, forgery, and terroristic threats.
4. Jose Luis Farfan of Peru, was apprehended in Jackson. Farfan was previously removed from the United States in May 1998 and less than one month later he illegally re-entered the country. Farfan has a conviction for attempted assault.
5. Marco Santos of Guatemala was previously deported from the country in 1997. He illegally re-entered the United States in 1998 and was apprehended while living in Yardville.

Those fugitives apprehended will be detained in ICE custody pending their final removal from the country. Those additional aliens encountered who are illegally present in the United States will also be detained pending an appearance in immigration court.

These arrests are the latest enforcement actions in New Jersey as part of the interior immigration enforcement strategy that was announced on April 20 by Homeland Security Secretary Chertoff and Assistant Secretary Myers. A critical element of this strategy is to identify and remove criminal aliens, fugitives, and other immigration violators from the United States.

The interior enforcement strategy is part of the Secure Border Initiative (SBI), which is the Department of Homeland Security's comprehensive, multi-year plan to secure America's borders and reduce illegal migration. SBI's border security efforts are focused on gaining operational control of the nation's borders through additional personnel and technology, while re-engineering the detention and removal system to ensure that illegal aliens are removed from the country quickly.

During fiscal year 2006 ICE removed 185,431 aliens from the United States an increase over the 168,906 individuals removed in fiscal year 2005.

-- ICE --

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## **News Releases**

**November 20, 2006**

### **New Jersey operation nets 137 fugitive aliens and other immigration status violators** *Arrests are result of Operation Return to Sender*

NEWARK, N.J. - U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers deployed across New Jersey and targeted dozens of known fugitive aliens in an intensive weeklong operation that resulted in the arrest of 137 fugitives and illegal aliens. The enforcement action was part of operation Return to Sender, a national ICE program to target, locate, and apprehend immigration fugitives.

Fifty-four of those arrested were fugitives who had outstanding warrants of removal. Another 63 individuals were apprehended because they are illegally in the United States. Of the 137 people arrested, 17 have criminal records.

Beginning on the morning of November 13, teams of ICE officers in New Jersey targeted fugitive aliens: individuals who have been ordered deported by immigration judges but have ignored the court's order. Those arrested during the ICE operation come from 21 different countries, including: Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala, Pakistan, Egypt, Poland, India, Slovakia, Costa Rica, Albania, Macedonia, and the United Kingdom.

Scott Weber, field office director for ICE's office of Detention and Removal Operations in Newark said, "Operation Return to Sender is aimed at enforcing orders issued by federal immigration judges. If individuals choose to disobey the judges' orders, ICE officers in New Jersey will track them down. We are committed to using all of the resources at our disposal to find these people, take them into custody, and remove them from the United States."

Weber pointed out that the fugitives arrested in this operation received the full due process they are entitled to under the law. Some of those arrested had been released on bond, while others had been freed on their own recognizance. The subjects became fugitives when they failed to appear for their immigration hearings, or when they failed to depart the United States as ordered.

Among those arrested during Operation Return to Sender are:

- Pedro Salmoran-Castro, a Mexican national, was convicted of attempting to elude

police in Atlantic City.

- Desi Gervase Scotland, a native of Trinidad and Tobago, was convicted of obstruction of administrative law. He entered the United States illegally and was ordered deported in September 2005. Scotland failed to appear in U.S. Immigration Court after being charged with being illegally present. He was ordered deported in absentia.

The fugitives arrested in this operation will remain in ICE custody pending their final removal from the country. The others will be placed in immigration removal proceedings.

The New Jersey operation is part of the nationwide interior immigration enforcement strategy announced earlier this year by Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff and ICE Assistant Secretary Julie L. Myers. A critical element of that strategy is to identify, locate, and remove criminal aliens, fugitives, and other immigration violators from the United States.

The interior enforcement strategy is part of the Department of Homeland Security's broader Secure Border Initiative (SBI), a multi-year plan to secure America's borders and reduce illegal migration. Those efforts are focused on gaining operational control of the nation's borders through the deployment of additional personnel and technology, while re-engineering the detention and removal system to ensure that illegal aliens are removed from the country quickly.

During fiscal year 2006, ICE removed 185,431 aliens from the United States, compared to 168,906 individuals removed in fiscal year 2005.

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## **News Releases**

**April 2, 2007**

### **ICE arrests 128 immigration violators in statewide enforcement operation**

#### ***Sex offenders, violent criminal and fugitive aliens among those arrested***

NEWARK, N.J. - As part of a two-week targeted law enforcement effort, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Fugitive Operation Teams (FOTs) in New Jersey arrested 128 immigration violators and alien fugitives, including 35 with criminal records. The targeted enforcement initiative is part of "Operation Return to Sender," a nationwide ICE program that locates and arrests immigration fugitives. ICE has three fugitive operation teams in New Jersey.

During the period of March 19 through March 30, ICE officers arrested 55 fugitives and 73 other immigration violators. Criminal convictions among those arrested include sexual assault, sexual misconduct with a minor, aggravated assault, resisting arrest, weapons charges, arson, fraud, drugs, driving under the influence, receiving stolen property, and larceny.

"ICE will continue to fulfill our congressional mandate by apprehending and deporting those illegally present in our country, especially those who have committed egregious offenses against our citizens," said acting field office director Bartolome Rodriguez, who leads ICE's detention and removal efforts in Newark. "Criminal aliens have a very high rate of recidivism and often re-victimize people in the community in which they live."

The aliens arrested during the two-week statewide operation came from the following 20 countries: Albania, Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Italy, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Uruguay, Spain, and Turkey. Highlighted apprehensions include:

- On March 21, ICE Newark arrested Victor Ramirez-Santiago, a 24 year-old Mexican national, in Bridgeton, New Jersey. In 2004 Ramirez entered the United States without inspection by an Immigration Officer. On November 14, 2006 Ramirez was convicted of child abuse and cruelty, after engaging in a sexual relationship with a 13-year-old girl.
- On March 22, ICE Newark arrested Pedro Roman Perez, a 59 year-old Dominican national. The subject was convicted in 1985 for attempted murder. Mr. Perez was also convicted of assault and driving under the influence.
- On March 27, deportation officers of the Marlton Sub-Office/Newark Field Office arrested Yunus Akif Cokokumus, a 36 year-old Turkish national. ICE officers established his true

ICE arrests 128 immigration violators in statewide enforcement operation

identity, revealing that he was unlawfully present in the United States. The subject was previously arrested and convicted for driving under the influence in New York, NY. The subject was also found to have outstanding charges with the Bergen County Sheriff's Department for fraudulent use of a credit card, theft by deception, and hindering apprehension.

The subjects became fugitives when they defied an order from a federal immigration judge and failed to leave the United States. All of the fugitives had the opportunity for full due process under the law. The fugitives arrested will remain in ICE custody pending their final removal from the country. The other individuals arrested have been placed in immigration removal proceedings.

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The interior enforcement strategy is part of the Department of Homeland Security's broader Secure Border Initiative (SBI), a multi-year plan to secure America's borders and reduce illegal migration. Those efforts are focused on gaining operational control of the nation's borders through the deployment of additional personnel and technology, while re-engineering the detention and removal system to ensure that illegal aliens are quickly removed from the country.

Since the start of the operation on May 26, 2006, and as of March 2, 2007, DRO Field Offices, ICE agents and officers were involved in a concerted effort which resulted in the arrest of 18,860 criminal aliens, illegal alien gang members, fugitive aliens, sexual predators and other immigration status violators.

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