

Inside ICE

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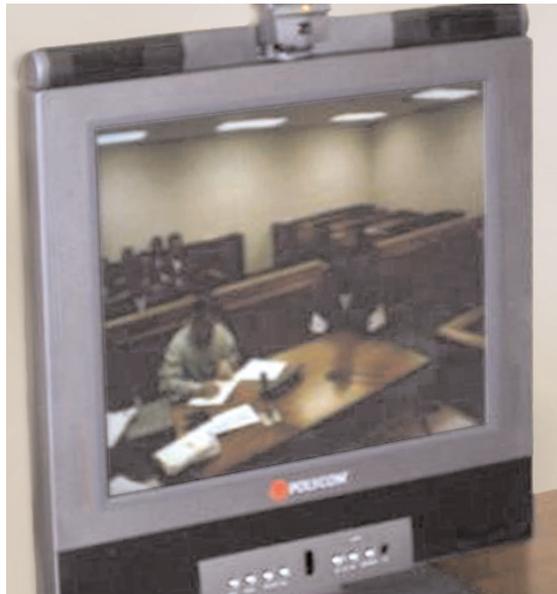
ICE, Honduras Announce Program To Speed Deportations

Houston, Texas—ICE and the government of Honduras have agreed to conduct the first Video Teleconferencing (VTC) pilot program to expedite the interviews and removal of Honduran immigration detainees.

The pilot program will enable Honduran consular offices to interview detainees via video teleconference, rather than through in-person interviews, to confirm their nationality. Confirmation of nationality is required to obtain travel documents and complete the deportation of these detainees. VTC will allow consular offices to conduct detainee interviews more frequently, allowing ICE to complete deportations more quickly.

“The VTC is a great example of the innovative approach ICE is taking to immigration enforcement,” said Marc J. Moore, ICE San Antonio field office director. “Consular officers are able to quickly reach out to Honduran citizens in our custody, while ICE is able to save money by reducing the amount of time detainees stay in detention and completing the deportation more rapidly.”

Norman Garcia, the Honduran Ambassador to the United States, said about the new pilot that, “The Government of President Ricardo Maduro has realized the importance of the Honduran community in the U.S. That is why his administration has rec-



An alien in ICE custody appears before an immigration judge during a teleconference hearing. ICE and the Honduran government have agreed to a pilot which will use this technology to allow Honduran officials to conduct counselor interviews with Hondurans in ICE custody.

ognized the importance of the VTC project—for Hondurans won't have to stay in detention centers longer than they need be, and will be able to go back to their families as soon as possible.”

ICE and the government of Honduras, working with the U.S. State Department, began discussions on VTC capability in February 2005. The government of Honduras officially approved using VTC on April 26, 2005 after careful consideration. This pilot program will soon be expanded to Honduran consular offices in Phoenix, Ariz., and Los Angeles, Calif. The government of Honduras indicated

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ICE, Hondurans Agree To Teleconference Pilot

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that VTC capability would ultimately be installed in all of its consulate offices across the nation. According to DHS statistics, from October 2004 through August 2005, ICE repatriated more than 6,600 Honduran nationals.

This VTC program is the latest of several initiatives launched by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to deter aliens from illegally entering the United States by apprehending and quickly removing them to their countries of origin. Last

month, for example, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff expanded Expedited Removal (ER) authority to the entire southwest border.

ER is an administrative process aimed at reducing the number of “Other than Mexicans” (OTMs) who have spent less than 14 days in the United States and who are apprehended within 100 miles of the border. OTMs apprehended under ER are detained and quickly returned to their countries of origin after receiving their travel documents. They are not required to appear before a federal immigration judge. ■



Marc Moore, field office director of the ICE San Antonio Office of Detention and Removal Operations, speaks during a news conference announcing an agreement between ICE and the Honduran government to begin a pilot program designed to speed the removal of Hondurans.

ICE Arrests Illegal Aliens Working At Army Special Ops School

Raleigh, N.C.—ICE agents arrested two Indonesian nationals and a Senegalese national who were working as contract language instructors at the Joint Special Operations Command Center (JSOC) within the U.S. Army Reservation at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Nurkis Qadariah, a 34-year-old native of Indonesia, and Sayf Rimal, a 37-year-old native of Indonesia, were arrested October 4 on federal charges of possessing and using false documents and making false statements.

Qadariah and Rimal used counterfeit Resident Alien Cards and made false statements under penalty of perjury that they were Lawful Permanent Residents of the United States in order to gain employment at Fort Bragg, providing contract language instruction services to U.S. Special Forces and other U.S. military personnel at the JSOC at Fort Bragg.

ICE agents also arrested Ousmane Moreau, a 38-year-old native of Senegal, October 3 in connection

with the same investigation. Moreau was charged with being in the United States illegally. He will be placed in removal proceedings.

“Unauthorized workers who use fraudulent documents to gain work at sensitive U.S. military installations pose a serious homeland security threat. Not only are their identities in question, but they are also vulnerable to potential exploitation by terrorists and other criminals given their illegal status in this country. Furthermore, these individuals have access to some of the most sensitive worksites in the nation,” said ICE Charlotte Assistant Special Agent-in-Charge Jeff Jordan.

The three arrests were the result of a joint investigation by ICE, the Defense Criminal Investigative Service, the U.S. Army Criminal Investigative Division, and Fort Bragg security officials. The investigation continues.

The arrests are the latest in ICE’s effort to target and remove illegal aliens working at sensitive sites and

critical infrastructure locations around the nation, including airports, seaports, nuclear plants, chemical plants, and defense facilities. In accordance with ICE’s homeland security mission, ICE special agents prioritize worksite enforcement efforts by focusing on investigations related to critical infrastructure and national security. As part of this effort, ICE agents continue to focus attention on facilities and companies that provide illegal contract employees to work on U.S. military bases and on U.S. military products. ■

Inside ICE is an e-newsletter produced by the ICE Office of Public Affairs to inform the public about the mission, operations and activities of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Please send comments and contributions to:

ICEUpdate@dhs.gov

—Russ Bergeron, Editor

ICE Deports Armenian Human Rights Violator

San Diego—ICE has deported a former lieutenant in the Armenian militia who admitted recruiting soldiers and providing arms to assist in the persecution of the Azeri people.

Vigen Patatanyan, 38, a naturalized Armenian citizen born in Iran, was deported from San Diego on October 5 on a commercial flight. Patatanyan had been in ICE custody since 2004 following his arrest at the Otay Mesa, Calif. Port of Entry, where he attempted to reenter the United States just six months after being deported to Armenia.

During the attempted entry, Patatanyan posed as

a refugee, showing U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers a valid refugee travel document belonging to someone else.

During his immigration proceedings, Patatanyan testified that he formerly served as a lieutenant in the Armenian militia and recruited soldiers to fight with him in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. According to Patatanyan, he brought supplies, including AK-47 rifles and ammunition, to soldiers engaged in battles at several locations in Armenia—conflicts that resulted in the massacre of countless villagers.

“We will not allow this country to serve as a safe

haven for those who have committed crimes against humanity,” said ICE San Diego Deputy Chief Counsel Alan Rabinowitz. “ICE is seeking to remove human rights violators of all nationalities who come here to evade prosecution for crimes they have committed in their home countries.”

Patatanyan’s removal is part of ICE’s ongoing effort to identify, apprehend, prosecute, and remove human rights violators. ICE attorneys are currently tracking and litigating more than 900 cases involving human rights violators from more than 85 countries nationwide.

Many of the most egregious human rights viola-



Vigen Patatanyan was deported by ICE after an immigration court found he had been involved in human rights abuses in Armenia.

tors residing in the United States are living and working among some of their victims who have sought asylum and refugee status in the United States. ■

ICE, Partners Break International Cocaine Ring

Madrid, Spain—ICE agents, working with agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), officials from Spain’s Guardia Civil and Canada’s Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), have dismantled an international drug trafficking ring that was attempting to smuggle 1,000 kilograms of cocaine into Spain.

Four Canadian nationals have been detained in Spain, and the 1,000 kilograms of cocaine have been seized, along with several high-performance vehicles, computer equipment, and an undetermined amount of cash.

The investigation began in May 2005 when ICE and DEA agents learned that a drug trafficking organization led by Canadians was attempting to move the cocaine from the Caribbean to Spain for later distribution throughout the European Union. Because the targets were Canadian and because one was considered the largest drug trafficker in Canada, ICE and DEA agents requested the help of Canadian authorities.

In August, after it was confirmed that the destination of the cocaine shipment was Spain, U.S. and Canadian authorities con-

tacted Spain’s Guardia Civil and that agency joined the investigation.

In late September, the Guardia Civil detected members of the drug trafficking organization in the province of Gerona, Spain. With the assistance of U.S. and Canadian authorities, Spanish officials learned that other members of the organization would be arriving in Spain from Canada in early October. Members of the organization were being closely monitored in both Canada and Spain.

The take down began October 6 in Cambrils,

Spain, where members of the organization were detained as they attempted to move the cocaine from one place to another. Authorities also detained the leader of the organization who had traveled to Spain in order to coordinate both the sale of the drugs and the laundering of the proceeds from those sales.

An analysis of documentation seized by authorities revealed that this organization operated not only in Spain, but also in Holland, France, The United Kingdom and Ireland, as well as in the United States and Canada. ■

ICE Agents Seize Thousands Of Fake CDs, DVDs At Flea Market

San Antonio—ICE agents executed a search warrant September 29 at the Val Verde Flea Market in Donna, Texas, and seized almost 9,000 counterfeit DVDs and CDs. The operation was part of ICE's ongoing efforts to stop the illegal sale of counterfeit motion picture and music.

A total of 8,725 DVDs and CDs were seized at the scene, each of them being sold for about \$10. No arrests were made during

the execution of the search warrant. ICE special agents will continue the investigation.

"Illegally manufacturing and selling pirated CDs and DVDs is a serious crime that harms the entire creative community of musicians, filmmakers, retailers and others who bring entertainment and art to the public," said Alonzo Pena, Special Agent-in-Charge of the San Antonio ICE Office of Investi-

gation. "Yesterday's seizure should send a clear message: We will not tolerate the theft of intellectual property."

In recent years, counterfeiting, piracy, and other Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) violations have grown in magnitude and complexity, costing U.S. businesses billions of dollars in lost revenue and often posing health and safety risks to U.S. consumers. In 1998, the Inter-

national Chamber of Commerce estimated that five to seven percent of world trade was comprised of counterfeit goods, a market worth some \$350 billion. In May 2004, the United States Trade Representative published its annual Special 301 Report in which it estimated that U.S. industry alone loses \$200 to \$250 billion to counterfeiting annually. ■

Bakersfield ICE Agents Raid Home Grown Counterfeiters

Bakersfield, Calif.—ICE agents arrested seven Kern County residents September 30 for manufacturing and selling fraudulent identification and immigration documents out of their homes.

ICE worked with the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and officers from the Kern County Sheriff's Department and the Taft Police Department.

The arrests follow a undercover investigation that resulted in the execution of search warrants at six homes allegedly being used as bases of operation for large-scale counterfeit document fraud.

Computers, media storage devices and counterfeit documents, including false Social Security cards, driver's licenses

and resident alien cards, ("green cards") were seized. ICE agents say the six locations dismantled today appeared to be operating independently of one another.

"Targeting those responsible for making and selling fraudulent documents is an enforcement priority for ICE," said ICE Bakersfield Resident Agent-in-Charge Michael Toms. "Anyone who knowingly and indiscriminately sells phony identity cards is putting the security of our communities and even our country at risk. Documents like this could potentially be used by terrorists or other dangerous criminals to obscure their identities and cover their tracks." ■

Chicago DRO Arrests Fugitive Haitian Gang Member

Chicago—ICE detention and removal officers arrested a Haitian member of the Black Gangster Disciples street gang September 28.

Jores Vieux, 32, was arrested at his residence without incident. During the arrest, ICE officers found drug paraphernalia in Vieux's apartment, including a scale, cutting board, small bags of what appeared to be marijuana, and "bombers"—cigars that are emptied out and repacked with marijuana. ICE officers called the Chicago Police, who took possession of the substances.

During an interview, Vieux admitted to ICE officers that he joined the Black Gangster Disciples as a teenager. He has two teardrop tat-

toos under his right eye. In the gang and prison culture, teardrop tattoos represent jail time, that the wearer has killed someone, or that they have lost a family member, friend or fellow gang member.

Vieux came to the United States as a legal permanent resident, or in 1981. He has a 1993 conviction in Cook County on drug charges, and a 1998 federal conviction in for counterfeiting. He was stripped of his legal immigration status and ordered deported by a federal immigration judge in March 2003. Vieux appealed his case, but lost. On Apr. 28, Vieux was ordered to surrender at the ICE office in Chicago for removal. He defied the order and remained in the U.S. as a fugitive. ■

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425 I St NW
Washington, DC 20536
Attn: Office of Public Affairs

Russ Bergeron, Editor
Phone: 202-514-2648
Fax: 202-514-1776
E-mail: InsidICE@dhs.gov

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U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

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.

Kissing Up To The Boss



Several dogs under consideration for the ICE Federal Protective Service (FPS) Canine Program kiss up to the boss, Dennis O'Connor, program director. The FPS Canine Training Academy is located at Ft. McClellan, Ala., and is run in partnership with Auburn University's Canine Substance Detection Research Development and Training Program. Each FPS canine handler and canine is required to attend the 10-week Explosive Detection Dog Handler Training Course. Handlers and their canine partners graduate from the course as a team.