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03/30/2017

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More than 80 arrested in Pacific Northwest ICE operation targeting criminal aliens, illegal re-entrants, immigration fugitives

SEATTLE – A previously deported Mexican national charged with child rape, who was recently released by local authorities despite an immigration detainer, is among the 84 foreign nationals arrested during a recently concluded three-day operation conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in Alaska, Oregon and Washington targeting at-large criminal aliens, illegal re-entrants, and immigration fugitives.

Of those arrested during the enforcement action which ended Monday, 60 had criminal histories, including prior convictions for sex crimes, drug offenses, and domestic violence. In addition to the pending child rape charge, the Mexican national referenced above had prior convictions for assault, domestic violence, and immoral communications with a minor. Others taken into custody during the operation included:

- A Russian national felon arrested in Portland whose criminal record includes a prior conviction for possession of methamphetamine; and
- A previously deported Mexican national with prior convictions for domestic violence and assault.

Criminal Convictions*

Driving under the influence	19	Weapon offense	1
Assault	7	Stolen property	1
Larceny	4	Dangerous drugs	1
Domestic violence	3	Lewd or lascivious acts with minor	1
Sex Assault	2	Damage property	1

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Larceny from building	2	Drug trafficking	1
Cocaine possession	2	Sex assault carnal abuse	1
Possession of weapon	2	Marijuana possession	1
Amphetamine possession	2	Illegal entry	1
Fraud	1	Traffic offense other	1
Violation of a court order	1	Cocaine sell	1
Heroin possession	1	Meth possession	1
Indecent liberty with a minor	1	Forgery	1

**Note: criminal aliens with multiple prior convictions are categorized based on their most serious conviction.*

The operation, conducted by ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO), targeted criminal aliens who pose a public safety threat and individuals who have violated our nation's immigration laws, including those who re-entered the country after being deported and immigration fugitives ordered deported by federal immigration judges.

Some of the individuals arrested during the enforcement action will be presented for federal prosecution for re-entry after deportation, a felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison. Those not being criminally prosecuted will be processed for removal from the country. Individuals who have outstanding orders of deportation, or who returned to the United States illegally after being deported, are subject to immediate removal from the country.

"This operation highlights our commitment to promoting public safety through the pursuit of targeted criminals residing in the U.S. illegally," said Bryan Wilcox, acting field office director for Seattle ERO. "Our officers will continue in their efforts to create safer communities by identifying and removing those not willing to comply with U.S. laws."

Last week's arrestees (77 men and 7 women) included nationals from 12 countries – Mexico (64); Guatemala (8); Honduras (2); El Salvador (1); United Kingdom (1); Cambodia (1); Brazil (1); Laos (1); Philippines (2); Western Samoa (1); Myanmar (1); and Russia (1).

King County accounted for the largest number of arrests during the operation, but ERO personnel conducted enforcement actions in a total of 20 communities.

County Arrest Totals

King	19	Lincoln	3
Washington	13	Thurston	2
Snohomish	9	Grant	2
Multnomah	7	Whatcom	2

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Lane	4	Chelan	2
Anchorage	4	Mason	1
Adams	3	Clatsop	1
Benton	3	Umatilla	1
Cowlitz	3	Wasco	1
Clark	3	Deschutes	1

ICE deportation officers carry out targeted enforcement operations every day in locations around the country as part of the agency's ongoing efforts to protect the nation, uphold public safety, and protect the integrity of our immigration laws and border controls. These operations involve existing, established [Fugitive Operations Teams](#).

During such enforcement operations ICE officers frequently encounter additional suspects who may be in the United States in violation of federal immigration laws. Those persons will be evaluated on a case by case basis and, when appropriate, arrested by ICE.

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