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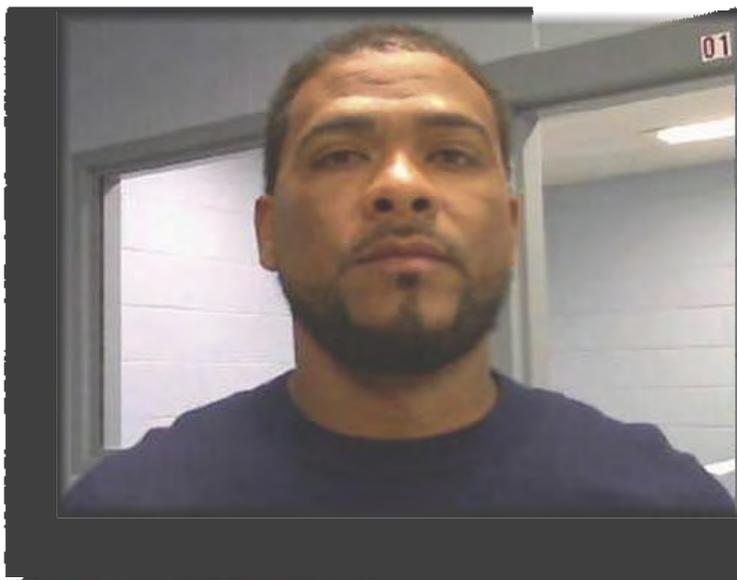
Enforcement and Removal

09/25/2019

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Philadelphia ICE Field Office arrests 45 during a week-long enforcement action targeting at-large criminal aliens released into the community





PHILADELPHIA – A Dominican man who pleaded guilty in the Court of Common Pleas, in the County of Philadelphia, to raping of a child, is among the 45 foreign nationals arrested during a recently concluded five-day surge conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO).

On Aug. 13, after being convicted and serving a sentence for raping a child, Philadelphia officials released the aforementioned, Edward De Oleo Valdez, 38, from the Curran Fromhold Correctional Facility, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, despite the presence of an ICE detainer. De Oleo Valdez was considered an at-large criminal alien and will remain in ICE custody pending removal from the United States.

"ERO deportation officers are committed to enforcing the immigration laws set forth by our legislators," said Simona Flores-Lund, field office director for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) Philadelphia. "Targeted operations like this reflect the vital public service that ERO officers do every day to protect the nation, we will continue to conduct similar operations, while seeking to ultimately remove criminal aliens with a final order of removal and other immigration fugitives who pose a threat to public safety."

ICE lodges detainers on individuals who have been arrested on criminal charges and who ICE has probable cause to believe are removable aliens. The detainer asks the other law enforcement agency to notify ICE in advance of release and to maintain custody of the alien for a brief period of time so that ICE can take custody of that person in a safe and secure setting upon release from that agency's custody. When law enforcement agencies fail to honor immigration detainers and release serious criminal offenders onto the streets, it undermines ICE's ability to protect public safety and carry out its mission. Philadelphia is a jurisdiction that does not cooperate with ICE.

ERO deportation officers in the Philadelphia Field Office targeted at-large criminal aliens during the surge which ran from Saturday, Sept. 21, to Wednesday, Sept. 25.

Of those arrested, ICE had previously lodged detainers on nine of the foreign nationals when they were in local law enforcement custody, and they were all released without the detainers being honored.

This week's arrests included 43 men and one woman from 10 countries – Mexico (21), Jamaica (3), Honduras (2), Dominican Republic (3), El Salvador (2), Guatemala (9), China (1), Cambodia (2), Kenya (1), and Portugal (1). Of the 44 arrested, 39 individuals had been previously convicted or charged with a crime, including driving under the influence and sexual offenses.

ERO deportation officers conducted enforcement actions across the Philadelphia area of responsibility (AOR) which includes: Pennsylvania, Delaware, and West Virginia. Thirty-four arrests took place in Pennsylvania, eight in Delaware and three in West Virginia.

ERO deportation officers carry out targeted enforcement actions 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 enforcement actions involve existing, established [Fugitive Operations Teams](#).

In FY2018, ERO arrested 158,581 aliens, 90% of whom had criminal convictions (66%) pending criminal charges (21%) or previously issued final orders of removal (3%). The overall arrest figure represents an 11% increase over FY2017. In FY2018, ERO removed 256,086 illegal aliens, reflecting an increase of 13% over FY2017. Most removals (57%) were convicted criminals. Additionally, 5,914 of the removed illegal aliens were classified as either known or suspected gang members or terrorists, which is a 9% increase over FY2017.

These arrests were driven by leads developed by the local field office in conjunction with the Pacific Enforcement Response Center and the National Criminal Alien Targeting Center. ICE focuses its

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enforcement resources on individuals who pose a threat to national security, public safety and border security. However, ICE does not exempt classes or categories of removable aliens from potential enforcement. All those in violation of immigration law may be subject to arrest, detention and, if found removable by final order, removal from the United States. ICE does not conduct sweeps or raids that arrest aliens indiscriminately.

Editor's Note: The arrest statistics provided in this news release represent preliminary data that has been manually reported to ICE headquarters.

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