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Enforcement and Removal

09/26/2019

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ICE arrests 42 in Colorado and Wyoming during 5-day enforcement action targeting criminal aliens and immigration fugitives

DENVER — Deportation officers with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) arrested 42 criminal aliens and immigration violators in Colorado and Wyoming during a five-day enforcement action, which ended Sept. 25.

Most of the aliens targeted by ERO deportation officers during this enforcement action had prior criminal histories; nine have pending criminal charges only.

Following is the nationality breakdown of those arrested: Mexico (36), Guatemala (2), Honduras (1), El Salvador (1), Brazil (1) and Kenya (1).

Following is a list of the criminal convictions of those arrested during this operation: assault, domestic violence, sexual assault, dangerous drugs, assault and driving while intoxicated (DWI).

"Our ICE officers still managed to find and detain many dangerous criminals despite the Colorado law that prohibits local law enforcement jurisdictions from cooperating with ICE," said John Fabbriatore, acting field office director for ERO Denver. "We continually work to keep our communities safe from Colorado's misguided priorities of protecting criminal aliens at the expense of its citizens."

The following are criminal summaries of four offenders arrested in during this operation:

- Sept. 22 — Adrian Adalberto Salmeron-Quiterio, 28, citizen of Mexico. He unlawfully entered the U.S. in March 2010. On July 20, 2018, ICE lodged a detainer with the El Paso County (Colorado) Jail after Salmeron-Quiterio's arrest for kidnapping, robbery, and assault 3rd degree. On Aug. 2, 2018, El Paso County Jail released him without honoring our detainer.
- Sept. 23 — Jose Alejandro Lopez-Gutierrez, 56, a previously removed citizen of Mexico. On May 25, 2019, ICE lodged detainer with Boulder County (Colorado) Jail after Lopez-Gutierrez' arrest for felony sex assault on a child. On May 28, 2019, Boulder County Jail released him without notifying ICE. He remains in ICE custody pending removal to Mexico.
- Sept. 24 — Jose Francisco Martinez-Calzada, 49, citizen of Mexico. On March 19, 2019, ICE lodged a detainer with the Maricopa County (Colorado) Jail after Martinez-Calzada's arrest for an open warrant. On or about July 17, 2019, Boulder County Jail released Martinez-Calzada without notifying ICE.

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- Sept. 25 — Miguel Noe Martinez-Castaneda, 38, a twice-deported citizen of Mexico. On May 5, 2019, ICE lodged detainer with Denver City Jail after Martinez-Castaneda's arrest for assault, disturbing the peace, and violation of court orders. On May 7, 2019, Denver City Jail released Martinez-Castaneda without notifying ICE.
- Sept. 25 — Sammy Avelino Velasquez-Vasquez, a twice-removed citizen of Honduras. On July 18, 2019, ICE lodged detainer with Denver City Jail after Velasquez-Vasquez's arrest for controlled substance possession, controlled substance possession with distribution, and outstanding warrant. On July 27, 2019 Denver City Jail released him without notifying ICE. Velasquez-Vasquez is currently at-large.

All of the targets in this operation are amenable to arrest and removal under the U.S. Immigration and Nationality Act.

ICE deportation officers carry out targeted enforcement actions daily nationwide 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 action involved existing and established [Fugitive Operations Teams](#).

Any local jurisdiction thinking that refusing to cooperate with ICE will result in a decrease in local immigration enforcement is mistaken. Local jurisdictions that choose to not cooperate with ICE are likely to see an increase in ICE enforcement activity, as in jurisdictions that do not cooperate with ICE the agency has no choice but to conduct more at-large arrest operations. A consequence of ICE being forced to make more arrests on the streets is the agency is likely to encounter other unlawfully present foreign nationals that wouldn't have been encountered had we been allowed to take custody of a criminal target within the confines of a local jail.

About Detainers

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.

An alien who illegally re-enters the U.S. after having been previously removed commits a felony, which – depending on an alien's criminality – is punishable by up to 20 years in federal prison, if convicted.

When law enforcement agencies fail to honor immigration detainers and release a criminal alien onto the streets, it negatively impacts public safety.

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

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