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Enforcement and Removal

12/21/2020

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ICE announces the latest results of Operation Broken Promise, targeting aliens who failed to depart US voluntarily

WASHINGTON – U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced Monday the latest results of a national enforcement effort called “Operation Broken Promise,” targeting for arrest and removal, aliens who promised to voluntarily leave the country, versus face a formal deportation, but never did.

From Monday, Dec. 7, to Tuesday, Dec. 17, ICE Enforcement and Removal (ERO) officers arrested more than 150 individuals, including 117 who failed to depart after being granted voluntary departure. About 71% of those arrested had criminal convictions or pending charges.

“Our officers are committed to preserving the integrity of our nation’s immigration laws and are strengthening the overall safety, security and well-being of our communities,” said ICE Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Director Tony H. Pham.

On Nov. 19, ICE announced the arrest of more than 150 individuals who failed to depart after being granted voluntary departure from Nov. 2 to Nov. 17.

Voluntary departure is typically requested by the alien and granted by an immigration judge, where the alien is granted about 60 to 120 days to arrange their own departure, versus facing a formal deportation and the barriers to readmission that it carries. Voluntary departures benefit U.S. taxpayers by lowering the costs of deportations.

When an alien fails to depart the country per the agreement, they become subject to a final removal order which is then carried out as a formal deportation by ICE. In addition to the barrier on readmission, an illegal reentry after a formal deportation is a felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison.

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 takes many factors into account when targeting and arresting individuals, including their criminal and immigration history.

Every day as part of routine operations, ICE targets and arrests aliens who commit crimes, and other individuals who have violated our nation’s immigration laws. While being mindful of the current pandemic,

ICE is continuing to conduct its critical public safety and immigration enforcement mission, while taking efforts to minimize the risks to officers, aliens and the public related to COVID-19.

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