ICE Picks Up Foreign Nationals

By Administrator
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Robert J. Higdon, Jr., United States Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina, announces the results of a recently completed enforcement operation in Wake County by Department of Homeland Security's Bureau of Immigration Custom Enforcement (ICE).

ICE began a targeted enforcement operation on February 8 and concluded today. However, it should be noted that ICE conducts targeted enforcement activities on a daily basis, and will continue to do so. This most recent operation targeted at-large criminal aliens who have been identified based on encounters – that is, criminal arrests – with local law enforcement.
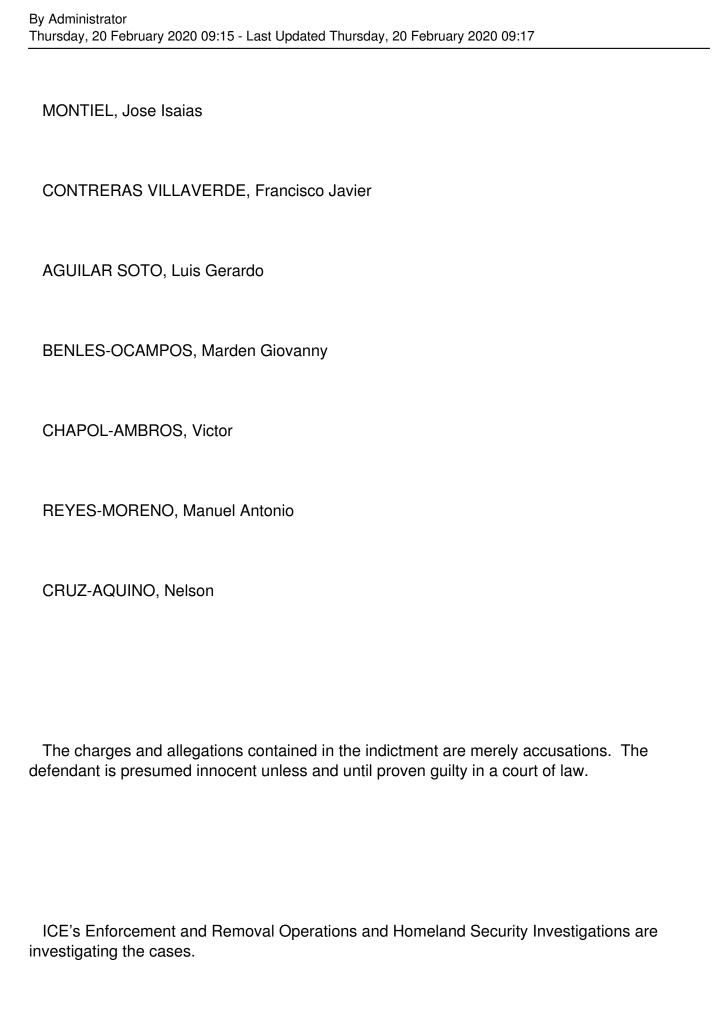
The Raleigh area ICE Team made sixteen arrests of foreign nationals with a variety of criminal arrests and convictions, including: Driving While Intoxicated; Burglary; Assault; Assault on Child; Robbery; Drug Possession; and, Resisting a Public Officer. One individual has been confirmed to be a member of the transnational criminal street gang Sureño 13 (SUR 13).

Of those arrested by ICE, eight were previously deported and are now pending federal prosecution for violations of Title 8, United States Code, Section 1326 (Reentry of a Removed Alien). Seven of those eight have been charged here in the Eastern District; one has been charged in the Middle District of North Carolina.

Additionally, four of the individuals arrested were identified while in the custody of the Wake County Sheriff's Office. One individual was released despite a detainer having been placed on that subject and in spite of charges involving the assault of two young children. Three individuals were released before ICE could respond.

Names of individuals pending federal charges in the Eastern District:

MONTIEL, Jose Isaias

CONTRERAS VILLAVERDE, Francisco Javier

AGUILAR SOTO, Luis Gerardo

BENLES-OCAMPOS, Marden Giovanny

CHAPOL-AMBROS, Victor

REYES-MORENO, Manuel Antonio

CRUZ-AQUINO, Nelson

The charges and allegations contained in the indictment are merely accusations. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

ICE's Enforcement and Removal Operations and Homeland Security Investigations are investigating the cases.

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