



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Arkansas*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**29 INDIVIDUALS INDICTED IN CONSPIRACY TO OBTAIN ILLEGAL STATE IDs**

**Little Rock** - U.S. Attorney Bud Cummins announced today that twenty-nine (29) individuals were indicted as part of a conspiracy to unlawfully obtain official State of Arkansas identification documents (IDs). The individuals illegally obtained State of Arkansas IDs through ringleader Zhon Ren Chang.

Arrest warrants have been issued for all 29 defendants. They are charged with violations of Title 18 U.S.C. §§ 1028(a)(8) and 371, "Conspiracy to Knowingly Traffic Authentication Features." In this case, the phrase "authentication features" refers to holograms, watermarks, images, numbers, etc., that appear on official documents.

Zhon Ren Chang was indicted on conspiracy charges in September 2006 to which he pled guilty. Chang is scheduled to be sentenced March 2, 2007.

The conspiracy was investigated by special agents with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and special agents with the Arkansas State Police Criminal Investigations Division.

An indictment contains only allegations. The defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

**DEFENDANTS:**

CESAR RUVALCABA,  
FRANCISCO J. DE LA CRUZ,  
YANELY BASALDUA,

JUANA CASTILLO,  
MARCOS CASTILLO-RAMIREZ,  
JESUS SANCHEZ,  
RUBIO QUERUBIN,  
MARIA BASALDUA,  
ADRIAN LOYOLA,  
SILVIA MARTINEZ,  
JULIO HERNANDEZ,  
ALEJANDRO MARTINEZ,  
GABRIELA HERNANDEZ,  
ESTHER SAAVEDRA-TIRADO,  
GRACIELA VEGA-PRADO,  
JOSE JIMENEZ,  
JOSE BECERRIL,  
JOSE CHAVEZ,  
WILMAN MACARIO,  
JOSE PEREZ,  
JOSE BRIONES,  
JOSE HUERTA,  
ARMANDO ALVAREZ-BRISENO,  
VICKY BARDALES,  
JOAQUIN AMARO-FLORES,  
CARLOS CASTILLO-HERNANDEZ,  
SERGIO SILVA,  
NAZARIO ENRIQUEZ,  
BIBIANO GONZALEZ-JUMENEZ

**SUMMARY OF CHARGE AND MAXIMUM PENALTIES:**

COUNT 1 Conspiracy to traffic in genuine State of Arkansas identification document authentication features, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371 and 1028(a)(8), punishable by not more than 5 years imprisonment, and/or a fine of up to \$250,000.

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