



Department of Justice

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ILLEGAL ALIEN SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL RE-ENTRY INTO U.S.

Deported in 1998 After Kidnapping Conviction in Cobb County

Atlanta, GA - ARMANDO GALARDO-NAVARRETE, 28, of Marietta, Georgia, was sentenced today by United States District Judge J. Owen Forrester on a charge of illegal re-entry by a removed alien.

Acting United States Attorney Sally Quillian Yates said of the case, "The apprehension and subsequent prosecution of this defendant is but one example of the successful partnership between the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Violent Criminal Alien Section (VCAS) unit of the ICE Detention and Removal Operation's Atlanta Field Office, which reviews criminal and fugitive alien cases for federal prosecution. Since we started participating in this initiative in February 2009, we have charged approximately 55 defendants in cases presented by the VCAS."

Felicia Skinner, Field Office Director for the Office of Detention and Removal in Atlanta, said of the case, "Illegal aliens who knowingly break the law by re-entering the United States will face criminal prosecution for their flagrant disregard of our laws. Those contemplating re-entering the country following their deportation should think twice, because they too could face a similar fate."

GALLARDO-NAVARRETE was sentenced to 41 months in prison to be followed by 3 years of supervised release. GALLARDO-NAVARRETE pleaded guilty to the charge on July 13, 2009. He will be deported upon completion of his prison sentence.

According to Acting Assistant United States Attorney Sally Q. Yates, and the charges and other information presented in court: GALARDO-NAVARRETE, a native of Mexico, was convicted of kidnapping in Cobb County, Georgia, before he was deported from the United States in December 1998. He was found by ICE in the Cobb County Jail on March 10, 2009, after his conviction for traffic violations under the alias name "Jose Pastra Balderrama."

The Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Violent Criminal Alien Section ("VCAS") was created in February 2008 under operation "Repeat Offender" in an effort to increase deterrence and reduce future recidivism rates of violent criminal aliens. The VCAS screens recidivist criminal aliens encountered through the Criminal Alien Program ("CAP"), the National Fugitive Operations Program ("NFOP"), the Joint Criminal Alien Removal Task Force and the Law Enforcement Agency Response Unit. In coordination with U.S. Attorney's Offices across the country, the VCAS works to prioritize federal criminal prosecution of egregious recidivist criminal aliens for felony violations.

In fiscal year 2008, the VCAS initiated 9,926 cases, of which U.S. Attorney's Offices around the country accepted 6,793 for criminal prosecution. The VCAS generated an increase of criminal prosecutions accepted by the U.S. Attorney's Offices by 275% from the 1,808 cases accepted in fiscal year 2007. The VCAS also secured 4,248 indictments and information and 2,977 criminal convictions in fiscal year 2008.

Atlanta's Violent Criminal Alien Section began working on February 11, 2009. Since that time, approximately 55 defendants have been charged.

This case was investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Deportation Officers.

Special Assistant United States Attorney Randall W. Duncan prosecuted the case.

For further information please contact Sally Q. Yates, Acting United States Attorney, or Charysse L. Alexander, Executive Assistant United States Attorney, through Patrick Crosby, Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Attorney's Office, at (404) 581-6016. The Internet address for the HomePage for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia is www.usdoj.gov/usao/ga.