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News Release

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Prosecutions continue in illegal entry cases involving those with prior criminal records

In the District of Minnesota, court action continues in federal cases involving three foreign nationals who entered the United States illegally after being deported as criminals. Today in Minneapolis, one of those men was sentenced, while earlier this week two men pleaded guilty to the crime.

In Minneapolis, United States District Court Judge Ann D. Montgomery sentenced Darling Paulino-Duarte, age 36, unknown address, to 77 months in prison on one count of illegal entry after removal. Paulino-Duarte was indicted on October 13, 2010, and pleaded guilty on December 20, 2010. In his plea agreement, he admitted that on January 12, 2010, he was found in the U.S. after having been previously deported to the Dominican Republic. His deportation followed a 1997 New York conviction for attempted criminal sale of a controlled substance. Paulino-Duarte was most recently arrested by Bloomington, Minnesota, police on January 9, 2010, for possession of methamphetamine and fleeing police in a motor vehicle. He was identified as an illegal alien through U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Criminal Alien Program ("CAP"). The goal of that program is to locate criminal aliens incarcerated in federal and state prisons, as well as in local jails, and prevent them from being released into the general population.

Yesterday in Minneapolis, Juan Carlos Figueroa-Alvarado, age 36, of Shakopee, pleaded guilty to one count of illegal reentry after removal. He was indicted on January 19, 2011, and entered his plea before U.S. District Court Judge John R. Tunheim. In his plea agreement, Figueroa-Alvarado admitted that on October 30, 2010, he was found in the U.S. illegally after having been previously deported to El Salvador. His deportation followed a 2005 Oregon conviction for robbery in the third degree. According to a law enforcement affidavit filed in the current case, Figueroa-Alvarado was most recently arrested on October 29, 2010, by the

Shakopee Police Department for domestic assault, and obstructing the legal process. He was in the Scott County Jail when he was identified as an illegal alien through the CAP.

Yesterday in St. Paul, Jose Manuel Ovalle-Garcia, age 32, of Richfield, pleaded guilty to one count of illegal reentry after removal. Ovalle-Garcia, who was indicted on January 19, 2011, entered his plea before U.S. District Court Judge Paul A. Magnuson in St. Paul. In his plea agreement, Ovalle-Garcia admitted that on December 30, 2010, he was found illegally in the U.S. after having been deported to Guatemala. His deportation followed a 2002 Hennepin County conviction for criminal sexual conduct in the third degree. Ovalle-Garcia was most recently arrested on December 30, 2010, by the Bloomington Police Department for providing a false name to police and driving without a license. He was identified via the CAP, and turned over to ICE's Enforcement and Removal Operations ("ICE ERO") on January 4, 2011.

For their crimes, both men face a potential maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. Judges Tunheim and Magnuson will determine the sentences at future hearings, yet to be scheduled.

The Paulino-Duarte case was the result of an investigation by ICE ERO and the Bloomington Police Department. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michelle E. Jones. The Figueroa-Alvarado case is the result of an investigation by the Shakopee Police Department and ICE ERO. The Ovalle-Garcia case is the result of an investigation by the Bloomington Police Department and ICE ERO. Both are being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Colin P. Johnson.

Figueroa-Alvarado and Ovalle-Garcia will remain in ICE custody until their current federal cases are resolved. All three will be deported after serving their sentences. To learn more about the CAP, visit www.ice.gov/criminal-alien-program/

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