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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 two foreign nationals who entered the United States illegally after being deported as criminals. Today in Minneapolis, one of those individuals pleaded guilty, while the other was sentenced for the same crime yesterday.

Heriberto Barron-Banuelos, age 42, of St. Cloud, pleaded guilty to one count of illegal re-entry after deportation. Barron-Banuelos, who was indicted on December 21, 2010, entered his plea before U.S. District Court Judge John R. Tunheim.

In his plea agreement, Barron-Banuelos admitted that on November 12, 2010, he was found in the U.S. after having been previously deported to Mexico following a 2000 Otter Tail County felony conviction for second-degree sale of a controlled substance. In addition, Barron-Banuelos was previously convicted of illegal re-entry in the Southern District of Texas in 2003. According to a law enforcement affidavit filed in the current federal case, Barron-Banuelos was recently arrested in Cold Spring for multiple driving violations, including using a fictitious driver's license. He was in jail when he was identified as an illegal alien through the 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. Barron-Banuelos was previously deported to Mexico in 2002 and 2006.

For his crime, Barron-Banuelos faces a potential maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. Judge Tunheim will determine his sentence at a future hearing, yet to be scheduled. He will remain in custody until his current federal case is resolved.

This case is the result of an investigation by the Cold Spring Police Department and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Enforcement and Removal Operations ("ICE ERO"). It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura M. Provinzino.

Yesterday in Minneapolis, U.S. District Court Judge Joan N. Ericksen sentenced Martha Corrales-Garcia, age 43, no known address, to 30 months on one count of illegal re-entry after deportation. Corrales-Garcia was indicted on February 2, 2010, and pleaded guilty on January 7, 2011.

In her plea agreement, she admitted that on December 20, 2009, she was found in the U.S. illegally after having been previously deported to Mexico. Her deportation followed a 1997 conviction in federal court in the U.S. District of Minnesota for distribution of cocaine. Most recently, she was arrested in Shakopee on December 19, 2009, for giving false information to a police officer.

This case was the result of an investigation by ICE's Homeland Security Investigations and the Shakopee Police Department. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Lola Velazquez-Aguilu.

Both individuals will be deported after serving their sentences. To learn more about the CAP, visit [www.ice.gov/criminal-alien-program/](http://www.ice.gov/criminal-alien-program/)

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