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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, prosecutions continue in several cases filed against Mexican nationals who have entered the United States illegally after being deported as criminals. Today in St. Paul, one man was sentenced to 18 months in federal prison for illegally re-entering the United States. Earlier this week, two other men were sentenced for the same crime.

This morning, U.S. District Court Judge Donovan W. Frank sentenced Francisco Alarcon-Flores, age 32, on one count of unlawful entry after deportation. Alarcon-Flores was indicted on June 23, 2010. In his plea agreement, he admitted that on April 28, 2010, he was found in the U.S. illegally after having been previously deported to Mexico. His deportation followed a 2003 South Dakota conviction for third-degree rape. A law enforcement affidavit filed in the current federal case states that Alarcon-Flores was arrested on April 28, 2010, by Redwood Falls police, following a routine stop for a traffic violation. He was in the Redwood County Jail when he was identified as an illegal alien through Homeland Security'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.

The Alarcon-Flores case was the result of an investigation by Homeland Security-Enforcement and Removal Operations ("HS-ERO") and the Redwood Falls Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Erika R. Mozangue.

Yesterday in Minneapolis, U.S. District Court Judge Patrick J. Schiltz sentenced Oscar Omar Perez-Torres, age 37, to 46 months in prison on one count of unlawful entry after deportation. He was indicted on November 10, 2009, and pleaded guilty on January 7, 2010. In his plea agreement, Perez-Torres admitted that on October 22, 2009, he was found in the U.S. illegally after having been previously deported to Mexico. His deportation followed a 2003

Nebraska conviction for conspiracy to possess a controlled substance with intent to deliver. He was arrested for possession of narcotics on October 21, 2009, and was in the Ramsey County Jail when he was identified as an illegal alien through the CAP.

The Perez-Torres case was the result of an investigation by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and HS-ERO. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kevin S. Ueland.

On February 7, 2010, Judge Schiltz sentenced Arturo Hernandez-Rivera, age 47, to 23 months in prison on one count of unlawful entry after deportation. He was indicted on September 15, 2010, and pleaded guilty on October 20, 2010. In his plea agreement, Hernandez-Rivera admitted that on August 25, 2010, he was in the U.S. illegally, after having been deported following a 2006 Ramsey County conviction for criminal sexual conduct in the third degree. His recent arrest was part of a three-day roundup of illegal immigrants throughout the Midwest. That roundup, led by HS-ERO, and called Operation Cross Check, yielded 370 arrests, including 48 in Minnesota.

The Hernandez-Rivera case was the result of an investigation by HS-ERO and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David P. Steinkamp.

The defendants named above will be deported to Mexico after serving their federal sentences. To learn more about the CAP, visit www.ice.gov/criminal-alien-program/

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