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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 continued in federal cases involving three Mexican nationals who entered the United States illegally after being deported as criminals. Today in Minneapolis, one of those men pleaded guilty to entering the United States illegally. Earlier this week, another pleaded guilty to the same charge while a third was sentenced to a similar charge.

Today in Minneapolis, Rafael Urena-Tavares, age 44, of Blaine, pleaded guilty to one count of illegal entry after deportation. He entered his plea before U.S. District Court Judge Ann D. Montgomery. He was indicted on December 7, 2010. In his plea agreement, Urena-Tavares admitted that on October 30, 2010, he was found in the U.S. illegally after having been previously deported to Mexico. His deportation followed a prison term from a 1994 conviction in the District of Minnesota for possession with intent to distribute cocaine. The current federal indictment resulted from an October 30, 2010, arrest in Spring Lake Park for having no driver's license. Following his release, authorities learned he was an illegal alien, prompting his arrest on November 2, 2010, by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Enforcement and Removal Operations ("ICE ERO").

For his crime, Urena-Tavares faces a potential maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. Judge Montgomery will determine his sentence at a future hearing, yet to be scheduled. This case is the result of an investigation by ICE ERO and the Spring Lake Park Police Department. It is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Colin P. Johnson.

Yesterday in Minneapolis, Judge Montgomery sentenced Ausencio Garcia-Santana, age 43, of Minneapolis, to 18 months in prison on one count of illegal entry after deportation. He was indicted on September 15, 2010, and pleaded guilty on November 19, 2010. In his plea agreement, Garcia-Santana admitted that on August 24, 2010, he was found in the U.S. illegally

after having been previously deported to Mexico. His deportation followed a jail term in California that resulted from a 1990 conviction for sale of a controlled substance. The current federal indictment was filed pursuant to his August 24, 2010, arrest, which was part of a three-day roundup of illegal immigrants throughout the Midwest. That roundup, led by ICE, and called Operation Cross Check, yielded 370 arrests, including 48 in Minnesota.

The case is the result of an investigation by ICE ERO, the Minnesota State Patrol, and the U.S. Marshals Service. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Charles J. Kovats, Jr.

On February 22, 2011, in St. Paul, Kerby Rosas-Camacho, age 25, address unknown, pleaded guilty to one count of illegal entry after deportation. He entered his plea before U.S. District Court Judge Richard H. Kyle. He was indicted on January 4, 2011. In his plea agreement, Rosas-Camacho admitted that on August 31, 2010, he was found in the U.S. illegally after having been previously deported to Mexico. His deportation followed a 2007 Dakota County conviction for fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct. The current federal indictment resulted from an arrest in Burnsville for driving while intoxicated. He was in the Dakota County jail when he was identified as an illegal alien through the ICE'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.

For his crime, Rosas-Camacho faces a potential maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. Judge Kyle will determine his sentence at a future hearing, yet to be scheduled. This case is the result of an investigation by the Burnsville Police Department and ICE ERO. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David P. Steinkamp.

Rosas-Camacho and Urena-Taveres will remain in custody until their current federal cases are resolved. All three men will be deported after serving their sentences. To learn more about the CAP, visit www.ice.gov/criminal-alien-program/

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