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News Release

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Indictment in illegal entry case involving a criminal

ST. PAUL – In the District of Minnesota, an indictment has been filed against a Mexican national who allegedly entered the United States illegally after being deported as a criminal. Earlier today, Ignacio Garcia-Gonzalez, age 27, no known address, was charged with one count of that crime.

Garcia-Gonzalez's indictment states that on May 15, 2011, he was found in the U.S. illegally after having been previously deported to Mexico. His deportation followed a 2005 conviction in Illinois for criminal sexual abuse. The current federal indictment followed Garcia-Gonzalez' recent arrest in North St. Paul for driving without a valid driver's license and failure to yield to an emergency vehicle. He was sent to the Ramsey County jail, where 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.

If convicted, Garcia-Gonzalez, also known as Frank Jony Garcia-Rios, faces a potential maximum penalty of 20 years in federal prison. All sentences will be determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the North St. Paul Police Department and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Enforcement and Removal Operations. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kevin S. Ueland.

Garcia-Gonzalez will remain in custody until his federal case is resolved and will be deported after serving his sentence, if he is convicted. To learn more about the CAP, visit www.ice.gov/criminal-alien-program/

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An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by a defendant. A defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.

