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News Release

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Minneapolis man sentenced for being an illegal alien in possession of a .22-caliber pistol

Earlier today in federal court in Minneapolis, a 25-year-old man was sentenced for being an illegal alien in possession of a .22-caliber, semi-automatic pistol. United States District Court Judge Joan N. Ericksen sentenced Joaquin Bravo Flores to 37 months in prison on one count of being illegal alien in possession of a firearm. Flores was indicted on June 23, 2010, and pleaded guilty on November 29, 2010.

In his plea agreement, Flores admitted that on May 13, 2010, he possessed the pistol. According to a law enforcement affidavit filed in the case, Flores was arrested on that date by Minneapolis police following the execution of a search warrant at his residence. During that search, officers discovered the gun under a mattress. They also found a 50-round magazine loaded with 40 rounds of ammunition, a box of .22-caliber bullets, five pounds of marijuana, and small quantities of both cocaine and methamphetamine. Previously, on at least four other occasions, Flores had voluntarily returned to Mexico, his country of citizenship.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Enforcement and Removal Operations ("ICE ERO") focuses on the identification of criminal aliens, including those who re-enter the country after voluntary or involuntary removal. Such aliens are often located through ICE initiatives, including the Criminal Alien Program ("CAP"), through which aliens incarcerated in federal and state prisons as well as local jails are identified and prevented from being released into the general population. Following his arrest for the crime described above, Flores was identified as an illegal alien through the CAP.

This case was the result of an investigation by the Minneapolis Police Department, ICE ERO, and the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael A. Dees.

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