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# **News Release**

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[WWW.JUSTICE.GOV/USAO/MN](http://WWW.JUSTICE.GOV/USAO/MN)

## **Prosecutions continue in illegal entry cases involving those with prior criminal records**

In the District of Minnesota, court action continues in federal cases involving three Mexican nationals who entered the United States illegally after being deported as criminals. Earlier today in St. Paul, one of those men pleaded guilty to entering the United States illegally. Yesterday, a second man pleaded guilty and a third man was sentenced, both on the same charge.

In St. Paul, Rolando Magana-Garcia, age 29, of St. Paul, pleaded guilty before United States District Court Judge Paul A. Magnuson. Magana-Garcia was indicted on January 19, 2011. In his plea agreement, Magana-Garcia admitted that on December 14, 2010, he was found in the U.S. illegally after having been previously deported. His deportation followed a 2002 federal conviction in the Northern District of Illinois for conspiracy to commit fraud through the use of identification documents. According to a law enforcement affidavit filed in the current case, Magana-Garcia was most recently arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations ("ICE HSI") during an investigation in St. Paul.

For his crime, Magana-Garcia faces a potential maximum penalty of ten years in prison. Judge Magnuson will determine his sentence at a future hearing, yet to be scheduled. This case is the result of an investigation by ICE HSI. It is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Colin P. Johnson.

Yesterday in Minneapolis, Mario Montalban-Ramirez, age 62, no known address, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Court Judge Patrick J. Schiltz. Montalban-Ramirez was indicted on January 4, 2011. In his plea agreement, he admitted that on or about December 7, 2010, he was found in the U.S. illegally after having been previously deported. His deportation followed a 1984 Texas conviction for murder. The current federal case resulted from an arrest by Metro Transit Police in Ramsey County for trespassing and open container. He was in the Ramsey

County Jail when he was identified as an illegal alien through 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, Montalban-Ramirez faces a potential maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. Judge Schiltz will determine his sentence at a future hearing, yet to be scheduled. This case is the result of an investigation by the Metro Transit Police Department and ICE's Enforcement and Removal Operations ("ICE ERO"). It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kevin S. Ueland.

On March 21, 2011, Judge Schiltz sentenced Gustavo Villa-Maldonado, age 37, of New Brighton, to 37 months in prison. Villa Maldonado was indicted on September 21, 2010, and pleaded guilty on November 17, 2010. In his plea agreement, Villa-Maldonado admitted that on June 21, 2010, he was in the U.S. illegally after having been deported in 2006, following a 2003 Hennepin County conviction for first-degree sale of a controlled substance. Villa-Maldonado was arrested on August 20, 2010, as part Operation Cross Check, a three-day roundup of illegal immigrants throughout the Midwest. That roundup, led by ICE, yielded 370 arrests, including 48 in Minnesota.

This case was the result of an investigation by ICE ERO. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Clifford B. Wardlaw.

Magana-Garcia and Montalban-Ramirez will remain in ICE custody until their current federal cases are resolved. All three defendants will be deported to Mexico 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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