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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, an indictment has been filed against a Mexican national who entered the United States illegally after being deported as a criminal. Earlier today in Minneapolis, Jose Amparo-Munoz, age 46, of Litchfield, was charged.

Amparo-Munoz's indictment alleges that on June 25, 2008, he was found in the U.S. illegally after having been previously deported to Mexico. His deportation followed a 2004 conviction in the District of Minnesota for distribution of methamphetamine. The current federal indictment resulted from an arrest in Meeker County for selling methamphetamine. He was in the Minnesota Correctional Facility at St. Cloud when 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, Amparo-Munoz faces a potential maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. All sentences will be determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the Litchfield Police Department and the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Enforcement and Removal Operations. It is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Colin P. Johnson.

Amparo-Munoz will remain in custody until his federal case is resolved and will be deported after serving his sentence, if 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.

