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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 continues in federal cases involving two 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 one count of illegal re-entry after removal, while the second was sentenced for the same crime.

Jose Guerrero-Almazan, age 54, no known address, pleaded guilty in the first case. He was indicted on September 8, 2011, and entered his plea before U.S. District Court Judge Richard H. Kyle. In his plea agreement, Guerrero-Almazan admitted that on August 25, 2011, he was found in the U.S. illegally after having been previously deported. Guerrero-Almazan's deportation followed a 1999 Texas conviction for possession with intent to distribute marijuana. The current federal charge resulted from an August 25 arrest for no driver's license. Guerrero-Almazan was then turned over to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE").

For his crime, Guerrero-Almazan 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 ICE's Enforcement and Removal Operations ("ICE-ERO") and the Minnesota State Patrol. It is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Colin P. Johnson.

Earlier today in St. Paul, U.S. District Court Judge Susan Richard Nelson sentenced Jose Amparo-Munoz, age 46, of Litchfield, to 46 months in prison. Amparo-Munoz was indicted on March 22, 2011, and pleaded guilty on May 31, 2011. In his plea agreement, Amparo-Munoz admitted that on June 25, 2008, he was found in the U.S. illegally after having been previously deported. His deportation followed a 2004 conviction in the District of Minnesota for distribution of methamphetamine. The current federal case 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 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.

This case was the result of an investigation by the Litchfield Police Department and ICE-ERO. It was prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Johnson.

Guerrero-Almazan will remain in custody until his federal case is resolved. Both 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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