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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 four foreign nationals who entered the United States illegally after being deported as criminals. On September 7, 2011, in Minneapolis, one of those men pleaded guilty, while in St. Paul, a second man pleaded guilty to one count of illegal re-entry after removal. Last week, two other men pleaded guilty to the same crime.

Julio Barreto-Barragan, age 30, no known address, pleaded guilty to one count. Barreto-Barragan, who was indicted on July 6, 2011, entered his plea before U.S. District Court Judge Patrick J. Schiltz. In his plea agreement, Barreto-Barragan admitted that on May 11, 2011, he was found in the U.S. illegally after having been previously deported to Mexico. Barreto-Barragan's deportation followed a 2003 Illinois conviction for possession with intent to distribute marijuana. The current federal indictment resulted from June 3, 2011, arrest by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Fugitive Operations Team. ICE was looking for Barreto-Barragan after he was reported following a May 12, 2011, arrest in Edina for not having a driver's license. Barreto-Barragan was released after being processed by the Edina Police Department.

For his crime, Barreto-Barragan faces a potential maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. Judge Schiltz will determine his sentence at a future hearing. This case is the result of an investigation by ICE ERO and the Edina Police Department. It is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Colin P. Johnson.

In St. Paul, Oscar Turcios-Rivera, age 48, of Worthington, pleaded guilty to one count. He entered his plea before U.S. District Court Judge Richard H. Kyle. He was indicted on June 21, 2011. In his plea agreement, Turcios-Rivera admitted that on May 20, 2011, he was found in the

U.S. illegally after having been previously deported to Mexico. Turcios-Rivera's deportation followed a 1991 California conviction for lewd and lascivious acts upon a child. The current federal indictment resulted from a May 20 arrest in Jackson County for providing a false name to a peace officer.

For his crime, Turcios-Rivera 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 the Minnesota State Patrol and ICE ERO. It is also being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Johnson.

On September 1, 2011, Carlos Rivera, age 33, no known address, pleaded guilty to one count. Rivera, who was indicted on July 19, 2011, entered his plea before U.S. District Court Judge Susan Richard Nelson. In his plea agreement, Rivera admitted that on June 24, 2011, he was found in the U.S. illegally after having been previously deported to Mexico. Rivera's deportation followed a 2004 conviction in the District of Minnesota for conspiracy to distribute heroin.

For his crime, Rivera faces a potential maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. Judge Nelson will determine his sentence at a future hearing. This case is the result of an investigation by the Minnesota State Patrol and ICE ERO. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael A. Dees.

On August 31, 2011, Samer Ochoa-Bernabe, age 36, of Edina, pleaded guilty to one count. Ochoa-Bernabe, who was indicted on June 21, 2011, entered his plea before U.S. District Court Judge Donovan W. Frank. In his plea agreement, Ochoa-Bernabe admitted that on May 10, 2011, he was found in the U.S. illegally after having been previously deported to Mexico. Ochoa-Bernabe's deportation followed a 1998 California conviction for willful infliction of corporal injury. The current federal indictment resulted from a May 9, 2011, arrest for giving a false name to a police officer, speeding, and other traffic violations. He was in the Faribault County Jail when he was identified as an illegal alien through 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.

For his crime, Ochoa-Bernabe faces a potential maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. Judge Frank will determine his sentence at a future hearing. This case is the result of an investigation by the Minnesota State Patrol and ICE ERO. It is also being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Johnson.

Barreto-Barragan, Turcios-Rivera, Rivera and Ochoa-Bernabe will remain in custody until their current federal cases are resolved. All four men will be deported 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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