



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

February 10, 2017

Fact Sheet

More than 160 arrested in Los Angeles-area ICE operation targeting criminal aliens, illegal re-entrants, and immigration fugitives

- Approximately 160 foreign nationals were arrested in six Southland counties this week during a five-day targeted enforcement operation conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) aimed at at-large criminal aliens, illegal re-entrants, and immigration fugitives.
 - Of those arrested, approximately 150 had criminal histories. Of the approximately 10 non-criminals taken into custody, five had final orders of removal or had been previously deported.
 - Many of the arrestees had prior felony convictions for serious or violent offenses, such as child sex crimes, weapons charges, and assault.
 - The arrestees included nationals from nearly a dozen countries. Ninety-five percent were male.
 - Some of those arrested will be presented to the U.S. Attorney's Office for prosecution for illegal re-entry after deportation.
 - Final statistics and operational b-roll will be available to reporters Monday.
- Those arrestees not being criminally prosecuted will be processed administratively for removal from the United States. Those who have outstanding orders of deportation, or who returned to the United States illegally after being deported, are subject to immediate removal from the country. The remaining individuals are in ICE custody awaiting a hearing before an immigration judge, or pending travel arrangements for removal in the near future.
- The operation began Monday and concluded today at noon local time. The enforcement effort involved 11 teams of ERO Deportation Officers, including those personnel regularly assigned to the nine Fugitive Operations Teams based in the seven-county area that falls under the jurisdiction of ERO's Los Angeles field office.
- This week's operation targeted public safety threats, such as convicted sex offender and known gang members, and individuals who have violated our nation's immigration laws, including those who re-entered the country after being deported and immigration fugitives who absconded after being ordered deported by federal immigration judges.
- Among those arrested during the Los Angeles-area operation were:
 - A Salvadoran national MS-13 member arrested in Huntington Park who is wanted in his native country for aggravated extortion;

- A Brazilian national arrested in Los Angeles who is wanted in Brazil for cocaine trafficking; and
- An Australian national taken into custody in West Hollywood who was previously convicted of lewd and lascivious acts with a child.
- ICE regularly conducts targeted enforcement surges during which additional resources and personnel are dedicated to apprehending deportable foreign nationals. All enforcement activities are conducted with the same level of professionalism and respect that ICE officers exhibit every day.
- While this week's operation was an enforcement surge, the focus was no different than the routine, targeted arrests carried out by ICE's Fugitive Operations Teams on a daily basis.
- During targeted enforcement operations ICE officers frequently encounter additional suspects who may be in the United States in violation of the federal immigration laws. Those persons will be evaluated on a case by case basis and, when appropriated, arrested by ICE.
- The rash of recent reports about purported ICE checkpoints and random sweeps are false, dangerous, and irresponsible. These reports create panic and put communities and law enforcement personnel in unnecessary danger. Individuals who falsely report such activities are doing a disservice to those they claim to support.
- During targeted enforcement operations ICE officers frequently encounter additional suspects who may be in the United States in violation of the INA. Those persons will be evaluated on a case by case basis and, when appropriated, arrested by ICE.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities. For more information, visit: www.ICE.gov. To report suspicious activity, call 1-866-347-2423.