



Inside ICE

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ICE Cracks Large-Scale Identity Theft Scheme



ICE Assistant Secretary Julie L. Myers, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff, Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Chairman Deborah Platt Majoras, and Cache County (Utah) Attorney N. George Daines announce the arrests resulting from an ongoing worksite enforcement investigation at a Dec. 13 news conference.

1,297 Swift & Company (Swift) workers were arrested as part of an ongoing worksite enforcement investigation into immigration violations and a massive identity theft scheme that has victimized large numbers of U.S. citizens and lawful U.S. residents.

On Dec. 12, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents executed civil search warrants at six facilities owned by Swift, one one of the nation's largest processors of fresh pork and beef. Agents executed warrants at Swift facilities

in Greeley, Col.; Grand Island, Neb.; Cactus, Texas; Hyrum, Utah; Marshalltown, Iowa; and Worthington, Minn.

All of the illegal alien workers were initially apprehended on administrative immigration violations. Of these, 274 have also been charged with criminal violations related to identity theft or other violations, such as re-entry after deportation. Countries of origin of those arrested were Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador,

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ICE Investigation Ongoing at Swift Facilities

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Peru, Laos, Sudan and Ethiopia; others have yet to be identified. The investigation is ongoing.

Through this investigation, which began in Feb. 2006, ICE and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) have identified hundreds of U.S. citizens whose stolen identities have been used by these aliens, that have reported being victimized by this identity theft scheme. ICE and the FTC are working to identify other victims who may be unaware that their identities have been stolen.

The investigation has uncovered criminal organizations around the country that traffic in genuine birth certificates and Social Security cards belonging to U.S. citizens. In recent months, ICE agents have arrested several members of these organizations in Minnesota, Texas, Utah and Puerto Rico. In some cases, these organizations have stolen legitimate identity documents from unwitting U.S. citizens. In other cases, they have purchased these documents from U.S. citizens willing to sell their identities for money, including homeless people and individuals in jail.

ICE agents learned that many of these genuine identity documents were trafficked to locations around the country and sold to illegal aliens who used them to gain employment at Swift. By using valid birth certificates and Social Security cards of U.S. citizens, these illegal aliens were able to thwart the Basic Pilot employment eligibility verification Program (Basic Pilot), a federal program designed to help employers detect unauthorized workers. Swift has used Basic Pilot since 1997.

The illegal aliens arrested Dec. 12 on administrative immigration violations were detained and processed at locations around the country for removal proceedings or immediate return

to Mexico. In a limited number of cases where humanitarian or medical concerns were identified, ICE agents used their discretion and provided the alien with a notice to appear in court at a later date.

Those illegal aliens who were charged with federal criminal violations were remanded to the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service pending their criminal court proceedings before a federal judge. Those illegal aliens charged in state criminal violations were remanded to the custody of state authorities pending their criminal court proceedings. ICE will seek to remove these individuals from the United States upon the resolution of their criminal charges and associated sentences.

Any U.S. citizens who suspect their identities were stolen in this scheme should report it via the FTC Web site at www.ftc.gov/idtheft or by calling the FTC's hotline at 1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338), or by writing to the Identity Theft Clearinghouse, Federal Trade Commission, 600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20580. ■

Inside ICE is an e-newsletter produced by the ICE Office of Public Affairs to inform the public about the mission, operations and activities of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Former Liberian President's Son Indicted for Torture

MIAMI—A federal grand jury in Miami charged Roy M. Belfast Jr., 29, with various crimes related to the alleged 2002 torture of a person in Liberia. Belfast was charged in an indictment returned on Dec. 6, 2006, by a federal grand jury in Miami with one count of torture, one count of conspiracy to torture and one count of using a firearm during the commission of a violent crime. The indictment charges Belfast, son of former Liberian President Charles Taylor, with participating in the torture of an individual in July 2002, in and around Monrovia, Liberia. Belfast, who was born in the United States, is alleged to have been serving in his father's government in Liberia at the time of the incident.

According to the indictment, in July 2002, the victim was abducted from his home and transported to various locations, finally arriving at the residence of then-Liberian President Taylor. Belfast observed questioning of the victim at this location. The victim was then transported for continued interrogation to the residence of a co-conspirator, who was a member of the Liberian Special Security Service.

According to the indictment, while at this residence, Belfast

ICE Targets Human Rights Violators

ICE created the Human Rights Violators and Public Safety Unit (HRVPSU) and the Human Rights Law Division (HRLD) to further its commitment to identifying, prosecuting and removing human rights abusers. The HRVPSU has the specific mandate to deny safe haven to human rights violators by bringing to bear a full range of investigative techniques and legal authorities to locate, investigate and remove these individuals from the United States. The HRLD was created to provide legal and litigation support to the effort to prosecute and to remove human rights violators.

Recent human rights violation cases investigated by ICE include:

- ICE agents arrested Gonzalo Guevara-Cerritos, 43, a former Salvadoran Army lieutenant convicted of participating in the Salvadoran military's 1989 massacre of six Jesuit priests. Guevara faces deportation.
- ICE agents arrested Prince Solomon Knox, 44, a native of Sierra Leone, on federal charges alleging that he lied about his involvement with rebel groups to gain entry to the United States as a refugee. Knox is charged with two counts of immigration fraud and two counts of making false statements to immigration officials in 2003 and 2006.
- ICE HRLD charged 24 individuals in six states with criminal violations in connection with their efforts to obtain refugee status in the United States by concealing their prior service in the Bosnian Serb military.

A conviction of immigration fraud carries a maximum penalty of 25 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Making false statements carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine on each count. Unlawful procurement of citizenship carries a maximum potential sentence of 10 years imprisonment.

and others tortured the victim. The torture included repeatedly burning the victim's flesh with a hot iron, burning various parts of his body with scalding water, including forcing the victim to hold scalding water in his hands at gunpoint, repeatedly electrically shocking the victim's genitalia and other body parts and rubbing salt into the victim's wounds.

On Dec. 7, Belfast was sentenced to 11 months incarceration for his passport fraud conviction. He was given

credit for time served (about eight months). Belfast has been arraigned on the torture charges and has been ordered held in custody pending trial.

The joint investigation was conducted by ICE and the FBI. ■

Former Chinese National Charged with Stealing Military Trade Secrets

SAN JOSE, Calif.—A former Chinese, now Canadian national was charged on Dec. 14 with stealing military application trade secrets and using them in demonstration and sales proposals to the People's Republic of China (PRC), Royal Malaysian Air Force and the Royal Thai Air Force. The indictment is the result of a joint investigation by the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the U.S. Attorney's Office of Computer Hacking and Intellectual Property (CHIP) unit and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Xiaodong Sheldon Meng, 42, is charged with stealing military combat and commercial simulation software and other materials from his former employer Quantum3D, a company based in San Jose, Calif. The economic espionage charges allege that Meng, formerly a resident of Beijing, China, and now a resident of Cupertino, Calif., stole the trade secrets from Quantum3D with the intent to use them to benefit the foreign governments of China, Malaysia and Thailand.

According to the charges, Meng took up employment

with a competing company, Orad, to "pursue other career development opportunities in China." At one point, Meng altered the Quantum3D's Mantis program to reflect the name of a program which belonged to Orad, according to the charges. Meng then used that program as part of a demonstration project in China.

The indictment includes three conspiracy counts; three counts of economic espionage and attempted economic espionage; two counts of violations of the Arms Export Control Act; 12 counts of theft of trade secrets and attempted theft of trade secrets; 15 counts of foreign and interstate transportation of stolen property; and three counts of making false statements to a government agency.

Meng appeared before U.S. Magistrate Judge Howard R. Lloyd in San Jose on Dec. 18, 2006. Meng was initially charged by complaint on Dec. 9, 2004. The original indictment on the case remains under seal. Meng is out of custody on \$500,000 bond.

Any sentence following conviction would be imposed by the court after consideration

A Dec.15th press release posted on www.quantum3d.com states that Quantum3D is fully cooperating with the U.S. government in the ongoing investigation of the Sheldon Meng case.

"The technologies in question not only represent significant economic value to our company, but, in some cases, are also controlled under U.S. export regulations. We take intellectual property and export controls very seriously and we're pleased that the U.S. government is pursuing this case," says Ross Q. Smith, Quantum3D president and co-founder.

of the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and the federal statute governing the imposition of a sentence. ■

Seven Charged in ICE Internet Child Pornography Trade Investigation

TUCSON, Ariz.—Six Arizona men have been indicted by a federal grand jury in Tucson on charges of receipt and possession of child pornography. The six, plus one additional man who faces state charges, are the latest to be charged in Operation Emissary, a nationwide investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) targeting a Web site that offered images and movies of hardcore child pornography. The program has resulted in more than 125 arrests in 22 states.

The six defendants include: Antonio Neira, 24, Deverne E. Horton, 77, and Lane Pickart, 52, all residents of Oro Valley,

Ariz.; as well as Dennis Torres, 26, Zachary Z. Stephenson, 20, and Christian Gudino, 24, all of Tucson, Ariz.

Federal search warrants had been issued to search the six men's computers in August 2006. In the course of the investigation, agents learned that the men had purchased subscriptions to a child pornography Web site. The agents seized each of the defendants' personal computers and computer-related equipment. A forensic analysis of these computers and equipment revealed that they each possessed and/or received child pornography in interstate commerce.

The indictments allege that all six defendants possessed computer images depicting minors who had been sexually exploited. The indictments against defendants Gudino, Horton, Stephenson and Pickart further allege that they had received child pornography in interstate commerce.

A conviction for receipt of child pornography carries a mandatory minimum sentence of five years in prison and a maximum sentence of 20 years. Possession of child pornography carries a maximum sentence of 10 years. ■

ICE Breaks Up Counterfeit Apparel Smuggling Ring

A U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) investigation into a large-scale counterfeit clothing ring has led to the arrest of four individuals in New York, New Jersey and Texas on charges of trafficking in counterfeit goods. The government also charged three of the defendants with attempting to bribe a public official. ICE agents simultaneously executed four search warrants at warehouses in New Jersey used to store vast quantities of counterfeit goods, as well as search warrants at various offices used by members of the conspiracy.

This ICE investigation, in part an undercover operation, was

initiated in May 2005. An undercover ICE agent posed as someone able to illegally pass containers of counterfeit goods past U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) checkpoints. To gain the trust of counterfeiters, the agents permitted some imitation clothing to pass into the country.

The counterfeit clothing was manufactured in foreign countries including Pakistan and China and smuggled through the seaport in Newark, N.J., and by air through John F. Kennedy Airport in New York.

Members of the conspiracy paid the undercover ICE agent

money on numerous occasions, believing the funds would be used to bribe a corrupt CBP official who would release the counterfeit clothing without inspection. Over the course of the investigation, members of the conspiracy paid the undercover ICE agent over \$140,000 in bribe money.

All four were charged with trafficking in counterfeit goods with counterfeit trademarks. Three of the accused were also charged with paying bribes in an effort to procure the release without inspection of their smuggled goods. ■



U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.

Inside ICE

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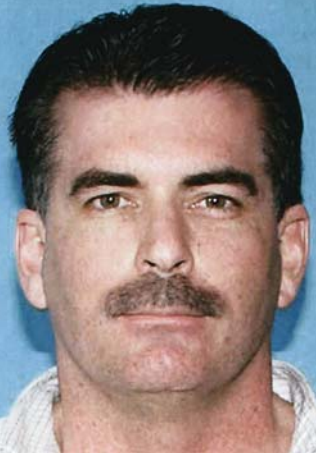
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Report Suspicious Activity:
1-866-DHS-2-ICE
1-866-347-2423
www.ice.gov

ICE MOST WANTED

This Week's Featured Fugitive:

Kenneth Freeman



ALIASES: Unknown

HEIGHT: 6'2"

DATE OF BIRTH: 06/21/62

WEIGHT: 240 lbs.

PLACE OF BIRTH: United States

HAIR: Brown

SCARS/MARKS: Unknown

EYES: Hazel

LAST KNOWN WHEREABOUTS: Richland, Wash.

BACKGROUND: Freeman is wanted for production of child pornography. He is also wanted by the Richland, Wash., Police Department for rape of a child in the first degree and by the U.S. Marshals Service for unlawful flight to avoid prosecution.

Suspect Should Be Considered Armed and Dangerous

If you have any information on the whereabouts of the above fugitive, please call 1-866-DHS-2-ICE (1-866-347-2423).

View more ICE Most Wanted online at: www.ice.gov

ICE Trains Law Enforcement Partners



On Dec. 21, 2006, 24 individuals were sworn in at a 287(g) graduation ceremony held in the Central Superior Court in Santa Ana, Calif. Under 287(g), ICE provides state and local law enforcement with the training and subsequent authorization to identify, process, and, when appropriate, detain immigration offenders they encounter during their regular daily law-enforcement activity. Among the graduates were Orange County sheriff deputies who will use the new training and authorization in their work at the local Orange County jail.