



Inside ICE

Volume 4, Issue 2

April, 2007

Inside this Issue

2 National Cleaning Company Executives Indicted for Harboring Illegal Aliens and Evading Taxes

3 Dinosaur Eggs and Diamonds

4 ICE Operation Return to Sender Yields 178 Arrests in South Florida

5 800 Pounds of Cocaine and 55 Pounds of Heroin Seized in Puerto Rico

**Back Page:
Most Wanted;
Featured Photo**

IMAGE Members See Benefits



Staff Management representative Claudia Roemer and Assistant Secretary Julie L. Myers sign IMAGE Agreement.

When Staff Management, an onsite contingent staffing provider based in Chicago, Ill., signed on earlier this year as a charter member of the ICE Mutual Agreement between Government and Employers program (IMAGE) company officials expected to gain recognition as a corporate leader in complying with laws regarding legal employment. This has been true, but the company is also seeing added benefits.

In the short time since entering the program, Staff Management has found itself sought by at least one employer to help them provide legal workers, and that company may also apply to become a member of IMAGE. Staff Management executive Claudia Roemer commented on the program's impact, "Companies do want to maintain their corporate image through sound hiring practices."

Part of the strategy for advancing the IMAGE program involves companies learning of and embracing a program that helps them follow existing law from the experiences of fellow companies in their and other industries.

IMAGE fosters partnerships between ICE and businesses, promoting the use of screening tools, best practices, and continuing education to determine employment eligibility based on immigration status.

The program begins with a self-assessment of hiring practices and helps uncover vulnerabilities to illegal activity that are related to immigration status. Technical tools to screen Social Security numbers and other information on job applicants and existing employees are integrated with best practices to lead to a high level of assurance that all of a participating business's employees are legally eligible for employment. ■

National Cleaning Company Executives Indicted for Harboring Illegal Aliens and Evading Taxes

United States Attorney Margaret M. Chiara, ICE Assistant Secretary Julie L. Myers and Acting Chief of the Criminal Investigation Division for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) John H. Imhoff, Jr. announced February 22 the unsealing of a 23-count felony indictment charging three Florida residents with conspiracy to defraud the United States, harbor illegal aliens for profit, and evade payment of federal employment taxes.

The defendants, who did business as Rosenbaum-Cunningham International, Inc. (RCI) from 1997 until the present, are: Richard M. Rosenbaum, 60, of Longwood, Fla.; Edward Scott Cunningham, 43, of West Palm Beach, Fla.; and Christina A. Flocken, 59, of Longwood, Fla.

The indictment alleges that the three operated a cleaning and grounds-maintenance service that contracted with theme restaurant chains and hospitality venues throughout the United States. They provided predominately illegal aliens for work at businesses that included units of the restaurant chains House of Blues, Planet Hollywood, Hard Rock Café, Dave and Busters, Yardhouse, ESPN Zone and China Grill, as well as Michigan's Grand Traverse Resort and Spa. Affected businesses paid RCI over \$54,327,000 between 2001 and 2005. RCI evaded payment of over \$18,640,000 in taxes, failing to collect and pay income, Social Security, Medicare and employment taxes related to wages it paid to its workforce. Rosenbaum, Cunningham and Flocken expended approximately 63 percent of these funds on operating RCI and divided the remaining 37 percent among themselves. The defendants disguised the true nature of their activities and obstructed the IRS from performing its government functions by creating several shell companies and bank accounts to hide their excess funds. These excess funds were then used by Rosenbaum,



Cunningham and Flocken to pay personal expenses for items such as luxury boats and vehicles, lavish homes and racehorses. The indictment also includes forfeiture allegations that notify the defendants that the government intends to seek forfeiture of the proceeds of their criminal conduct.

Additionally, ICE made approximately 195 administrative arrests of immigration status violators as part of this operation. ICE and the Criminal Investigations Division of the IRS are conducting this ongoing investigation. The cases are being prosecuted for the United States by Western District of Michigan Assistant United States Attorneys Hagen W. Frank and Matthew G. Borgula. The charges in an indictment are allegations of criminal conduct, and the defendants are presumed innocent until their guilt is established by proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

Knowingly harboring illegal aliens for profit is a felony carrying a maximum sentence of 10 years' imprisonment, and evading collection and payment of employment taxes is a felony carrying a five-year sentence. If convicted, the defendants may also be ordered to pay restitution to the United States Treasury of more than \$18 million dollars. ■

ICE Agents Seize Dinosaur Eggs and Diamonds

ICE agents have recently investigated and made seizures in two high-interest cases.

Agents seized a nearly perfectly preserved nest of fossilized dinosaur eggs that was apparently smuggled out of China.



These fossilized dinosaur eggs are believed to be those of a predatory raptor that roamed the earth during the Cretaceous Period more than 65 million years ago.

ICE was tipped off by a December *USA Today* article touting the upcoming sale of the eggs by Bohnams and Butterfields Auction House. Bohnams and Butterfields is cooperating fully with the ongoing investigation.

The *USA Today* story estimated the fossilized eggs' value at more than \$200,000, stating that the nest was unearthed in China's Guangdong Province during the early 1980s and was ultimately purchased by an American collector in 2003.

The dinosaur nest is so well preserved that the fossilized remains of the dinosaur

embryos are still visible. Evidence gathered by ICE so far suggests the nest was brought into the United States illegally. Fossils and cultural relics are protected by the Chinese government and removing them from that country without government permission is against the law.

In addition, the original shipping label on the nest declared its value to be \$500. Experts now estimate its worth as much as \$350,000. ICE agents say undervaluing imported goods is a common ploy used by smugglers attempting to avoid detection, since merchandise worth more than \$2,500 is subject to formal importation procedures.

In another case, two men appeared in U.S. District Court in Tucson on last month for a detention and preliminary hearing on federal charges that they smuggled African diamonds into the United States and attempted to sell them to undercover agents for ICE posing as gem buyers.

The defendants, Maliki Mohamad Diane, 60, and Kouyate Saoud, 49, were arrested February 4 after ICE agents executed a search warrant for their motel room and recovered more than 11,000 carats of rough diamonds, along with an array of other precious and semi-precious stones. ICE received substan-



Uncut diamonds seized by ICE.

tial assistance in the investigation from the Arizona Attorney General's office.

Saoud, a national of Guinea, and Maliki Diane, a naturalized U.S. citizen born in Sierra Leone who now resides in New Jersey, are charged with violating the Clean Diamond Trade Act, a 2003 law that prohibits the importation of diamonds into the United States unless the stones undergo strict certification procedures, known as the Kimberly Process, designed to control the trade of so-called "conflict diamonds."

The pair came under suspicion after Saoud told ICE undercover agents who approached him at one of the venues of the Tucson Gem, Mineral, and Fossil Showcase that he had uncut diamonds for sale.

If convicted of the charges, the men face a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, or both. ■

ICE Operation Return to Sender Yields 178 Arrests in South Florida

An ICE operation dubbed “Return to Sender” yielded the arrest of 178 fugitives and immigration status violators in Miami during a weeklong detention and removal effort that culminated on February 2.

The arrests came as a result of targeted enforcement actions in Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties. Those arrested represent 18 different nations. Some of those arrested have previous felony convictions for crimes including lewd and lascivious assault, domestic abuse, fraud, and grand theft.

Among those arrested was 33-year-old Hassan Abdulla Husan Alihussein, of Jordan, who entered the country as a visitor, and was ordered removed by an immigration judge on June 2, 2003. The Board of

Immigration Appeals (BIA) subsequently upheld Alihussein’s order on July 16, 2004. Alihussein had been on the run evading law enforcement since 2004.

During Alihussein’s arrest, ICE deportation officers discovered a concealed, unregistered and loaded 9mm handgun. The handgun was subsequently seized and the case has been presented to the U.S. Attorney’s Office in the Southern District of Florida for federal prosecution. If convicted, Alihussein would serve out his sentence in the U.S. prior to being deported.

Operation Return to Sender is an integral part of the Secure Border Initiative (SBI), a comprehensive multi-year plan launched by the Department of

Homeland Security to secure America’s borders and reduce illegal migration. Under SBI, Homeland Security seeks to gain operational control of both the northern and southern borders, while re-engineering the detention and removal system to ensure that illegal aliens are removed from the country quickly and efficiently. SBI also involves strong interior enforcement efforts, including enhanced worksite enforcement investigations and intensified efforts to track down and remove illegal aliens inside this country. Also as part of SBI, 424 illegal aliens were deported from Miami to their respective home countries in January 2007. Of those deported, 131 had criminal convictions. ■

800 Pounds of Cocaine and 55 Pounds of Heroin Seized in Puerto Rico

A 130-foot Bolivian-flagged cargo vessel carrying approximately 800 pounds of cocaine and 55 pounds of brown heroin with an estimated street value of \$8 million was escorted to the U.S. Coast Guard base in San Juan, Puerto Rico earlier this year. There, federal agencies participating in the Caribbean Corridor Initiative arrested the eight-member Colombian crew and seized the contraband.

The vessel *Osiris II* was intercepted by the Coast Guard Cutter *Tahoma* approximately 228 nautical miles southeast of the Dominican Republic. The *Osiris II*, which showed signs of distress, raised the interests of law enforcement organizations operating as part of the Caribbean Corridor Initiative, an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Strike Force comprised of agents, officers and attorneys working for U.S. Immigration and Customs



A crewmember of the Bolivian-flagged vessel *Osiris II* intercepted at high seas with more than 800 pounds of cocaine and 55 pounds of heroin, is taken into custody by ICE agents upon its arrival to the U.S. Coast Guard Base in San Juan.



The seized contraband was concealed in the forward bulk-head of the *Osiris II* and seized by ICE agents participating in the Caribbean Corridor Initiative.

Enforcement (ICE); the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Puerto Rico; the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA); the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG).

After successful coordination between the crew of the USCG Cutter *Tahoma*, Caribbean Corridor participating agencies, and the government of Bolivia, USCG personnel boarded the *Osiris II*. A thorough inspection of the vessel by USCG personnel revealed that approximately 800 pounds of cocaine, 55 pounds of brown heroin, and a MAC 10 machine gun with a silencer was hidden in the forward bulk-head of the cargo vessel.

Federal officials subsequently arrested the eight-member Colombian crew. All are in U.S. Marshals custody awaiting the outcome of their criminal case. ■



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 five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.

Inside ICE

425 I St NW

Washington, DC 20536

Attn: Office of Public Affairs

E-mail: InsideICE@dhs.gov

**Visit us on the Web
and register for your
free electronic copy
of Inside ICE!**

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

ICE MOST WANTED

Featured Fugitive:



If you have any information on the whereabouts of the above fugitive, please call 1-866-DHS-2ICE. View more ICE Most Wanted online at: www.ice.gov

Hong Chen

Alias: Evan Chen

Height: 5' 9" Date of Birth: 08/01/1957

Weight: 135 Sex: Male

Place of Birth: Shanghai, China

Eyes: Brown Skin Tone: Medium

Hair: Black Scars/Marks: None noted

Occupation: Laborer

City/State of Last Known Residence:

Los Angeles, California; may also have ties in Chicago, Illinois

Wanted: For removal from the United States. Previous criminal activity includes: conviction for criminal sexual assault on a child.

IMAGE Charter Members



Representatives of each of the IMAGE charter member companies or organizations gathered recently to formalize their participation. DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff and DHS Assistant Secretary for ICE Julie L. Myers hosted the event, attended by those shown above (left to right): Tommy Augustsson (General Dynamics), Randy Hinds (Hitch Enterprises), Tim Phelan (Colorado Structures), Ray Shaw (NAFTZ), James T. Marek (Systems Painters and Drywall), Secretary Chertoff, Assistant Secretary Myers, Gary Crane (Atlas Pallet), Stephen R. Wright (Colcon), Mary Block (Aluminum Precision Products) and Claudia Roemer (Staff Management).