



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
10 W. JACKSON BLVD.
CHICAGO, IL 60604

NEWS RELEASE

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

INS Arrests 9 Mexican Nationals for Document Fraud

Chicago, IL – An investigation by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in Chicago, with the aid of the Chicago Police Department, the Social Security Administration and the Secretary of State, culminated in the arrest on Saturday, May 19 of 9 Mexican nationals for the sale and manufacturing of counterfeit Resident Alien cards and Social Security cards. All 9 arrested are residing illegally in the United States. The INS confiscated a total of 2,612 blank identification documents being sold for up to \$120.00 per set (a set includes 1 Resident Alien Card and 1 Social Security card). INS officials estimated the total street value to be over \$156,000.

INS agents initiated the investigation in December of 2000 at the Mega Mall Shopping Center, located at 2500 N. Milwaukee Avenue in Chicago, where document vendors were supposedly conducting their illegal activity. The investigation led INS agents to a residence at 2914 North Springfield Avenue where many of the fraudulent documents allegedly were manufactured. Rolando Magana-Garcia, Aaron Mena-Perez, Eduardo Javier Acosta-Rios, Ruben Gomez-Sanchez, Raul Orozco-Montano, Felipe Pichardo-Salgado, Arturo Ortiz-Mendez, Ulis Perez-Ramirez and Daniel Hernandez-Cueto all face charges.

Since fiscal year 1998, October 1997 to the present, the INS Chicago district has confiscated approximately 70,000 counterfeit documents.

The public is reminded that a complaint contains only charges and is not evidence of guilt. The defendants are presumed innocent and are entitled to a fair trial at which the United States has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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