



# U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Protecting National Security and Upholding Public Safety

## News Release

December 12, 2006

### **ICE executes warrants in worksite enforcement investigation involving a large-scale identity theft scheme**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – This morning, special agents from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) executed civil search warrants at six facilities owned by Swift & Company. The operation is part of a worksite enforcement investigation that has identified a large identity theft scheme that has victimized large numbers of U.S. citizens and lawful residents. Swift is a nationwide processor of fresh beef and pork.

ICE agents executed the court-authorized warrants at Swift's processing facilities in Greeley, Colorado; Grand Island, Nebraska; Cactus, Texas; Hyrum, Utah; Marshalltown, Iowa; and Worthington, Minnesota. These civil warrants allow ICE agents to search for and apprehend any illegal alien workers encountered at these facilities.

Because agents are still in the process of apprehending illegal alien workers, an arrest total is not available at this time. The aliens are being arrested on administrative immigration violations and, in some cases, existing criminal arrest warrants. Additional criminal charges of aggravated identity theft and other violations may also be brought at a later time.

Evidence uncovered during the ICE investigation, which began in February 2006, indicates that large numbers of illegal aliens may have illegally assumed the identities of U.S. citizens or lawful U.S. residents and improperly used their Social Security numbers to gain employment at Swift facilities. ICE agents and the Federal Trade Commission have identified hundreds of potential victims.

### *Links*

**[ICE Mutual Agreement between Government and Employers \(IMAGE\)](#)**

**[Worksite Enforcement](#)**

**[Identity and Benefit Fraud](#)**

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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.