

Immigration Officials Make Austin Arrests

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Austin, TX

Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials arrest 22 in Austin area.

The U-S government is ordering the deportation of twenty two illegal immigrants arrested in the Austin area. They're now in custody following a recent four day long raid led by officials from the U-S Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Nina Pruneda is spokeswoman for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. "A good number of them, I was say more than five, had been in the United States for more than 10 years," Pruneda said. "And so while they had been hiding out, a lot people will say to themselves 'it has been five years, they are not going to catch me, it's been six years, they are not going to catch me.' But we caught up to them. Even after ten years we've caught up to these people." The enforcement operation is part of a targeted nationwide effort. Pruneda said seventy three specialized investigation units have been created to go after fugitives ordered to leave the United States. "It's not something we put together one day to another," Pruneda said. "But what we actually do is a planned enforcement operation. We go after these people. There are lists of these people. We have to run these names through different databases in order to determine what's the best location and best way to find them. After it's been confirmed they are in fact in the country illegally and have been ordered to leave the country by an immigration judge." Pruneda says it could take several weeks before the deportations are carried out. The fugitives will be deported to their home countries which include India, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador.

— Emily Babcock