

## **ICE arrests 58 employees at Casa Fiesta restaurants**

CLEVELAND. 7/23/08 — As part of its ongoing enforcement efforts to investigate worksites allegedly hiring and harboring illegal aliens, U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) executed federal search warrants today at Casa Fiesta restaurants throughout Northern Ohio.

ICE arrested 58 employees for administrative immigration violations. Casa Fiesta is a chain of Mexican restaurants located in Ashland, Fremont, Norwalk, Oberlin, Oregon, Sandusky, Vermillion, and Youngstown, Ohio. Today's enforcement action is part of a more than a year-long ongoing investigation.

"ICE criminal worksite enforcement investigations unfold in multiple stages. The execution of criminal search warrants and the administrative arrest of unauthorized workers is just one step in the investigative process" said Brian M. Moskowitz, special agent in charge of the ICE Office of Investigations in Detroit. Moskowitz's area of responsibility covers the States of Ohio and Michigan.

The individuals arrested today are all from Mexico. Everyone detained today will be interviewed by ICE agents to determine if they have medical, caregiver, or other humanitarian issues. Three individuals were identified who qualified for humanitarian release. Individuals released for humanitarian reasons, are still required to appear before a federal immigration judge who will ultimately determine whether they have a legal right to remain in the United States.

A telephone number has been established for family members to find out more information about the detention status of those arrested today. The ICE Cleveland, Office of Detention and Removal Operations telephone number: 216-535-0510. Additionally, ICE has contacted local community groups and the Mexico consular office to provide accurate information about the operation.

ICE has significantly enhanced its efforts to combat the unlawful employment of illegal aliens and to target employers who knowingly hire and harbor illegal aliens. As of May 2008, ICE has made more than 2,900 administrative arrests in connection with worksite enforcement investigations, including more than 850 criminal arrests. In fiscal year 2007, ICE secured more than \$30 million in criminal fines, restitutions, seizures and civil judgments as a result of worksite related enforcement actions. More than 4,000 administrative arrests were made, along with 863 arrests for criminal violations.

#

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement 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.