



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
August 8, 2003

Contact: Dean Boyd/ICE (202) 514-2648
Channing Phillips/US Attorney (202) 514-6933

**ICE AGENTS ARREST THREE IN CONNECTION WITH
FRAUDULENT DOCUMENT RING IN ADAMS MORGAN**
-- Arrests are the latest in "Operation Card Shark" --

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Special agents from the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) have arrested three individuals in connection with a large-scale fraudulent document ring in the Adams Morgan section of Washington D.C.

At approximately 11:45 AM yesterday, ICE agents arrested **Gerardo Marquez-Cortez, age 27, Daniel Vazquez-Jimenez, age 34** and **Arturo Carmona-Zamorano, age 32** without incident at an apartment at 3514 13th Street, N.W. All three are scheduled to make their initial court appearance at 1:30 PM today before U.S. Magistrate Alan Kay in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

ICE agents also executed a search warrant at the same location, where they seized 592 counterfeit identity documents that were being manufactured in the apartment including counterfeit alien registration receipt cards, also known as "green cards," counterfeit Social Security cards, counterfeit employment authorization documents, counterfeit Mexican ID cards and counterfeit driver's licenses from two states. Several document-making implements were also seized.

Gerardo Marquez-Cortez faces charges of re-entry after deportation and possessing, distributing and manufacturing fraudulent identification documents, such as social security cards and green cards. Daniel Vazquez-Jimenez also faces charges of re-entry after deportation and possessing, distributing and manufacturing fraudulent identification. Arturo Carmona-Zamorano is accused of distributing fraudulent documents.

Gerardo Marquez Cortez is the brother of Salomon Gonzalez-Gonzalez aka "El Virus," who last month was sentenced to 52 months in prison for his role as a kingpin in a counterfeit green card ring in Adams Morgan. Gonzalez-Gonzalez was arrested on November 25, 2002.

Marquez Cortez is believed to have inherited control over the counterfeit document operation after his brother's arrest. With today's arrests, ICE agents believe they have effectively removed the leadership of this criminal organization.

"Today's arrests were the latest enforcement actions in an ongoing ICE initiative called "Operation Card Shark,"" said Kevin Delli-Colli, the Special Agent in Charge for the Washington D.C. office of ICE. "Through this initiative, we are aggressively targeting criminal groups responsible for the production of fraudulent documents in D.C."

To date, Operation Card Shark has resulted in the arrest of 50 document vendors, the criminal prosecution of 16 individuals, and the discovery and dismantling of four fraudulent document manufacturing sites.

###