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United States Attorney's Office
Southern District of California

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U.S. Attorney's Office Filed 111 Border-Related Cases This Week

SAN DIEGO – Federal prosecutors in the Southern District of California filed 111 border-related cases this week, including charges of bringing in aliens for financial gain, reentering the U.S. after deportation, and importation of controlled substances.

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of California is the fourth-busiest federal district, largely due to a high volume of border-related crimes. This district, encompassing San Diego and Imperial counties, shares a 140-mile border with Mexico. It includes the San Ysidro Port of Entry, the world's busiest land border crossing, connecting San Diego (America's eighth largest city) and Tijuana (Mexico's second largest city).

In addition to reactive border-related crimes, the Southern District of California also prosecutes a significant number of proactive cases related to terrorism, organized crime, drugs, white-collar fraud, violent crime, cybercrime, human trafficking and national security. Recent developments in those and other significant areas of prosecution can be found [here](#).

A sample of border-related arrests this week:

- On July 11, Saul Castro Valenzuela was arrested and charged with Attempted Bringing in Aliens for Financial Gain. According to a complaint, Castro Valenzuela was the captain of a white sport fishing vessel that was transporting 21 undocumented aliens. The vessel was intercepted by the U.S. Coast Guard as it entered Mission Bay. Sixteen of the passengers had previously been ordered removed from the United States and were arrested and charged with Attempted Entry after Deportation.
- On July 12, Salvador Lopez Chee, a United States citizen, was arrested and charged with Importation of a Controlled Substance. According to a complaint, Customs and Border Protection officers discovered 131 pounds of cocaine in the walls of his Ford F-150 truck when he applied for entry into the United States at the San Ysidro Port of Entry.
- On July 15, Hector Bejerano-Bejerano (aka Bejarano-Bejarano), a Mexican national, was arrested and charged with Deported Alien Found in the United States. According to a complaint, Border Patrol agents encountered the defendant 2.5 miles north of the border and 5 miles west of the Tecate Port of Entry. Bejerano-Bejerano has three prior felony immigration convictions.

The immigration cases were referred or supported by federal law enforcement partners, including Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Enforcement and

Removal Operations (ICE ERO), Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Border Patrol, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS), and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), with the support and assistance of state and local law enforcement partners.

Indictments and criminal complaints are merely allegations and all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

