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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Law Enforcement Agencies Join U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Operation Targeting Undocumented Aliens Employed as Security Officers**

**(DALLAS – March 30, 2008)** – On March 29, 2008, at approximately 11:00 p.m. CDT, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Inspector General; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF); the Dallas Police Department (DPD); the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS); the Texas Alcohol Beverage Commission (TABC); the Dallas County District Attorney's Office (DA); and the U.S. Attorney's Office, Northern District of Texas, successfully executed a joint investigative operation targeting 30 to 50 undocumented aliens employed as armed and unarmed security officers at several local establishments.

"The laws against illegal aliens possessing firearms are clear," said John Chakwin Jr., special agent in charge of the ICE Office of Investigations in Dallas. "This particular operation is an excellent example of ICE working cooperatively with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies to enforce these statutes, and reduce the criminal threat to public safety." Chakwin oversees north Texas and the State of Oklahoma.

ATF acting Special Agent in Charge Michael A. Golson Sr., stated, "This is evidence of ATF's continuing effort to get firearms out of the hand of prohibited persons, to reduce violent crimes and to make our streets safer. We will continue to work with all our law enforcement partners to achieve this goal. As always, we will investigate to determine how criminals obtain their firearms."

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A total of 26 Dallas-based businesses, mostly night clubs, were simultaneously hit by the participating law enforcement agencies on Saturday night. The primary objective of the operation was to identify and arrest undocumented aliens who were working as armed and unarmed security officers at the various locations. All of the suspects arrested during Saturday night's operation were employees of two local security companies. The investigation is ongoing.

"It's always a win-win situation when law enforcement agencies combine their manpower to combat criminal activity," said Craig Watkins, Dallas County District Attorney. "We are glad our investigators were able to support ICE in this operation as the State intends to vigorously prosecute these individuals for their illegal actions. Hopefully, this operation will help us send a message that we will not tolerate the falsification of documents for undocumented aliens under the guise of providing security."

Richard B. Roper, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Texas, said, "I commend the excellent federal, state and local cooperative investigative efforts in this operation. The U.S. Attorney's Office is committed to prosecuting federal firearms offenses - including prosecuting undocumented aliens who possess a firearm."

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) enforces the nation's immigration and customs laws. ICE 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.

The Dallas County District Attorney's (DA) Office is located at the Frank Crowley Courts Building in Dallas, Texas, and is led by District Attorney Craig Watkins, who took office on January 1, 2007. The DA's Office represents the State of Texas in the prosecution of all Dallas County criminal cases. For more information about the Dallas County District Attorney's Office, please visit [www.dallasda.com](http://www.dallasda.com).

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