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Document and Benefit Fraud

11/04/2019

2 men plead guilty in Oklahoma to selling fraudulent social security and US permanent resident cards

TULSA, Okla. — Two men pleaded guilty Monday to selling fraudulent social security and U.S. permanent resident cards to individuals unlawfully living in the United States, announced U.S. Attorney Trent Shores.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) conducted this investigation.

Cristian Alvarado Morales, 30, of Tulsa, pleaded guilty to the following charges:

- conspiring to transfer identification documents;
- three counts of aggravated identity theft;
- possession with intent to use and transfer five or more documents and authentication features; and
- unlawful re-entry of a removed alien.

Alvarado was previously removed from the United States March 25, 2008, from Laredo, Texas. Anderson Garces Lopez, 29, of Tulsa, pleaded guilty to conspiring to transfer identification documents.

In their plea agreements, Alvarado and Garces both admitted to conspiring to sell the fraudulent social security and U.S. permanent resident cards for personal profit. The two stated that they possessed and sold more than 100 false or fraudulent identification documents. The pair used the identities of individuals both living and deceased.

"Protecting our homeland takes many forms but enforcing the integrity of U.S. identity documents is a critical element," said Ryan L. Spradlin, special agent in charge of the Dallas Office of Homeland Security Investigations, which includes Oklahoma. "The HSI-led [Document and Benefit Fraud Task Forces](#) nationwide investigate the individuals and organizations who try to reap illegal profits by producing and distributing fraudulent documents."

"Motivated by greed, Alvarado and Garces enabled countless illegal aliens to flout our nation's immigration laws by selling phony identification documents for profit," said U.S. Attorney Trent Shores. "Working and living in the United States is a privilege understandably desired by many, but there are laws governing admission and citizenship into our nation. This U.S. Attorney's Office will uphold federal immigration laws enacted by Congress and vigorously prosecute those who facilitate unlawful entry into our country."

U.S. District Judge John E. Dowdell set sentencing for Feb. 10, 2020.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard M. Cella is prosecuting this case.

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