

# WCCO-TV - Minnesota's Breaking News, Video Traffic and Sports: Feds Crack Down On Illegal Immigrants In MN

## Local News

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### Feds Crack Down On Illegal Immigrants In MN

*(AP) Bloomington, Minn.* Federal agents are aggressively tracking down and deporting illegal immigrants in Minnesota crackdown on aliens who have disobeyed their deportation orders.

Agents are now showing up each day on the doorsteps of immigrant families, in contrast with the past, when the nationwide under deportation orders had little to fear as long as they weren't charged with other offenses.

Some of the tactics used by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency have drawn protests.

On Friday, Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak, interim Police Chief Tim Dolan and the Minneapolis City Council asked if their practice of identifying themselves as "police."

Tim Counts, spokesman for the ICE office in Bloomington, said this is the first time the agency has had a system: people with outstanding deportation orders and sending them home.

"When somebody was ordered deported (in the past), and was not in our custody, we were surprised if we ever saw them on Friday. "We would send them a surrender letter. We jokingly called it a 'run' letter. It was a surprise when somec

What changed is that earlier this year, the Minnesota region got funding for a fugitive operation team, one of sev nationally. Counts wouldn't say how many new agents or dollars are involved, but he said they're now hard at wo

"That's why there's this surge in the apprehension of fugitives in Minnesota," said Counts, who estimates that ICI deportable immigrant each workday.

Rosalba Valenzuela is among the Twin Cities residents who have seen the approach close up. She said her daugh

a.m. on Jan. 31 to tell her some men were there. She found that her 11-year-old son had let in two men who identified themselves as "police."

Valenzuela said they showed her a photograph of a black man she did not know and said they had information he was wanted. When the agents asked to search it, she consented. Only later, she said, when the men went to her sister-in-law's house to search for her brother, she realized who they were -- ICE agents searching for her brother.

Agents found him later that day. He was deported to Mexico three days later, she said. His wife and children eventually had no way to support themselves, Valenzuela said.

"It really bothers me that they came to my house with all these lies," said Valenzuela. "We expect people to be honest."

Minneapolis city officials on Friday asked ICE to stop its agents from identifying themselves as "police." That practice ultimately discourages residents from cooperating with city police, the city officials argued.

Counts said ICE agents call themselves "police" because it's a universally recognized term, similar in several languages.

"Our agents follow accepted law enforcement procedures," he said.

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