

# Utah Attorney General SECURE Strike Annual Report Executive Summary

*(Statewide Enforcement of Crimes by Undocumented Residents)*



## July 2011-August 2012 Milestones

- Opened 158 investigations
- Arrested 113 suspects
- Investigated cases in numerous Utah counties
- Dismantled 15 document mills
- Seized over \$1,000,000 in cash, plus additional proceeds
- These cases are rapidly and efficiently prosecuted by an integrated SECURE Strike Force prosecutor

## Case Highlights

SECURE identified four Chinese nationals (some were illegally in the U.S.) using sophisticated fraudulent American Express credit cards with actual account numbers at nine Target stores, from Las Vegas, St. George, Provo, Orem, Salt Lake City, and Centerville. Over \$80,000 in fraudulent charges were transacted. This investigation brought together four local police agencies. Through that cooperation, a second unrelated ring of thieves was identified, involving several persons using a similar credit card fraud in Utah and in Washington, Oregon, and California. Investigators are closing in on the mill that may have supplied the cards in both cases. Racketeering and fraud charges have been filed by the SECURE prosecutor.



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One of the nation's largest spice production operations was shut down by the SECURE Strike Force. Eight principals of the ring were charged; seven have been convicted and one is awaiting trial. Nearly \$5,000,000 worth of packaged spice was seized from locations in West Valley, Murray and West Haven. A million dollars in cash was seized from the various locations. Over 1,000 pounds of raw material ready for spice production was located. This investigation lead to:

- Las Vegas Metro Police and the Drug Enforcement Agency executed search warrants and seized \$2,500,000 in finished spice, \$61,000 in illegal precursor chemicals and over 1,000 pounds of pre-production raw material
- New Mexico authorities executed search warrants for facilities used to store spice produced there and elsewhere by the Utah principals.



This case resulted in approximately \$12,500,000 in illegal drugs seized. The Drug Enforcement Agency continues to follow leads developed by the SECURE Strike Force during this operation.

*The SECURE Strike Force has stopped major organized crime groups that previously operated anonymously in the community, stemming the flow of illegal drug and weapons trafficked in Utah by undocumented aliens. Utah communities are much safer. The ripple effect from seizing thousands of fraudulent ID documents is directly seen in the guns and drugs seized, the organized crime leaders arrested, and in preventing the frauds that would have been committed if those fraudulent documents were allowed to hit Utah's street. ID mills severely harm Utah's economy. The misuse of Social*

*Security numbers adversely affects the true owner's credit. If a credit line is established with a fraudulent identification document, the financial institution becomes a fraud victim.*