

# Utah Attorney General SECURE Strike Annual Report Executive Summary

*(Statewide Enforcement of Crimes by Undocumented Residents)*



## July 2012-June 2013

- Opened 173 investigations
- Arrested 57 suspects
- Investigated cases in numerous Utah counties

## Case Highlights

The Utah Attorney General SECURE Strike Force began investigating reports of human trafficking operations supplying minors for sexual purposes in a group of Reiki massage parlors. A lengthy undercover and surveillance operation penetrated the criminal enterprise headed by Luis Daniel Arano Hernandez and Juan Manuel Arano Hernandez, both undocumented aliens from Mexico.



In November 2012, the SECURE Strike Force executed four search warrants in various locations in the Salt Lake valley, including a string of massage parlors. Agents discovered minor undocumented alien girls performing sex acts for pay. The ring leader, Luis Daniel Arano Hernandez, was convicted of Aggravated Human Trafficking, a first degree felony. He was recently sentenced to five years to life at the Utah state prison. When paroled, he will be deported to Mexico. Several of the other traffickers were arrested, entered guilty pleas to felony crimes and have been deported to Mexico. The Utah Attorney General Office SECURE Strike Force is in the process of investigating another criminal enterprise using massage businesses as fronts for human trafficking and sexual exploitation in the Salt Lake valley.

The Utah Attorney General Office SECURE Strike Force closed down a massive fraudulent document mill near the Latino Mall in Salt Lake City. A search warrant that followed an undercover operation resulted in seizure of over 20 portfolios of government identity documents. These were high-quality fakes, and included driver licences, Resident Alien identification, state identification cards (from Utah and other states) and Social Security cards. Also located was a gun and ammunition. A computer search warrant for the same location produced evidence of approximately 100 more passport-style identification documents, showing that this operation was a high production shop, as had been reported by intelligence sources. Due to the passports and quantity of fraudulent documents, federal prosecution is underway.



SECURE successfully investigated and arrested a complicated fraud where Jose M. Gonzalez claimed to be an Immigration & Customs Enforcement agent. He convinced his victims that for \$8,000 to \$12,500 he could provide them authentic state and federal government documents. SECURE Special Agents arrested him during a buy/rip portion of an undercover operation. After media reports of the arrest, several other victims came forward. Thus far, 19 victims have been confirmed. Gonzalez is charged (thus far) with 14 counts of Wire Fraud, 19 counts of Encouraging or Inducing Illegal Aliens to Reside in the United States Unlawfully & Aiding and Abetting, and 3 counts of Impersonation of Federal Agent. This case came to our attention because of one brave, humble Latino who had the courage to stand up for what was right and trust the justice system in Utah, even though at the risk of deportation or physical harm. He had been threatened by Gonzalez.

*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.*