



U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

News Releases

July 18, 2010



ICE detainee passes away at Orleans Parish Prison

NEW ORLEANS - A 28-year-old El Salvadoran national being held by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was pronounced dead Saturday afternoon at Orleans Parish Prison after an apparent suicide.

Jose Nelson Reyes-Zelaya was being detained by ICE at Orleans Parish Prison. Reyes was found in his cell yesterday after apparent asphyxiation. Deputies provided emergency medical care to him and called for an ambulance. Attempts to revive the detainee were unsuccessful and he was pronounced dead at 12:15 pm.

Consistent with ICE protocol, the appropriate state health and local law enforcement agencies have also been informed. ICE notified El Salvadoran consular officials and Reyes' next of kin. DHS' Office of the Inspector General is conducting a full review of the circumstances surrounding his death.

Reyes came into ICE custody on July 16, 2010. Reyes is the eighth detainee to pass away in ICE custody in fiscal year 2010.

-- ICE --

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.

ICE is a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities. For more

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information, visit www.ICE.gov. To report suspicious activity, call 1-866-347-2423.

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