

da " [www.dailynews.com](http://www.dailynews.com) ", "ICE arrests nearly 300 local gang members as part of nationwide anti-gang effort", Daily News Wire Services Los Angeles 10/15/2009

Authorities arrested 293 people in the Southland during an anti-gang operation that netted 1,780 arrests nationwide.

The law enforcement operation was conducted in 89 cities and ended Sept. 30.

Federal ICE agents worked with federal, state, and local law enforcement partners to target transnational gangs, including Mara Salvatrucha 13 (MS-13), Surenos-13, the 18th Street Gang, Latin Kings, Bloods, Crips and Vatos Locos.

Such gangs have significant numbers of foreign-born members and are frequently involved in human smuggling and trafficking; narcotics smuggling and distribution; identity theft and benefits fraud; money laundering and bulk cash smuggling; weapons smuggling and arms trafficking; cyber crimes; export violations; and other crimes with a nexus to the border, ICE reported.

Of the 1,785 people arrested during the operation, 1,472 were gang members, associates or those otherwise criminally charged -- including almost 35 percent with violent criminal histories and 16 gang leaders. The others were arrested for immigration violations during the enforcement action and are in the midst of deportation proceedings.

ICE agents arrested 905 people on criminal charges ranging from attempted murder, aggravated assault and drug and firearms violations to charges of re-entering the country after deportation.