



NEWS RELEASE

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ACCUSED CHILD RAPIST DETAINED IN MEXICO

Amarillo, TEXAS – Accused child rapist, Omar Cruz, 31, was detained by Mexican law enforcement officials in Mexico on 03/15/2016. Cruz, who is a U.S. citizen living illegally in Mexico, was turned over to U.S. Marshals by Mexican officials in Laredo, TX.

In 2014, two arrest warrants were issued for Cruz, pursuant to an investigation by the Amarillo Police Department, where it is alleged that Cruz committed aggravated sexual assault of a child under 14 years old. Cruz was also wanted for forgery of a financial instrument. Cruz was added by the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to the Texas Ten Most Wanted list in 2014. Cruz has a long list of prior convictions including: unlawful carrying of a weapon, resisting arrest, possession of marijuana, burglary of habitation, and driving while intoxicated among others.

In 2015, members of the U.S. Marshals Service (USMS) North Texas Fugitive Task Force in Amarillo initiated an investigation in an effort to locate and apprehend Cruz at the request of Texas DPS. Through a joint investigation between the USMS offices in the Northern District of Texas, Southern District of Texas and DPS, Cruz was located in Mexico. The U.S. Marshals Service in the Southern District of Texas took custody of Cruz at the Laredo Port of Entry. Cruz was subsequently booked into the Webb County Jail where he is awaiting extradition to Potter County, Texas.

The USMS has a long history of being the primary federal agency for the apprehension of federal fugitives and a long track record of providing assistance and expertise to other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in support of their fugitive investigations. The USMS is the lead agency for 60 interagency fugitive task forces located throughout the United States, as well as seven Congressionally-funded regional fugitive task forces. These task forces, staffed by federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, target the most dangerous fugitives.

The U.S. Marshals Service has been designated by the Department of Justice as the primary agency to apprehend fugitives who are wanted by foreign nations and believed to be in the United States. Also, the Marshals Service is the primary agency responsible for tracking and extraditing fugitives who are apprehended in foreign countries and wanted for prosecution in the United States. The U.S. Marshals Service, which has statutory responsibility for all international, federal and state extraditions, sees to it that there is no safe haven for criminals who flee the territorial boundaries of the United States.

Additional information about the U.S. Marshals Service can be found at <http://www.usmarshals.gov>.

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