



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of Virginia*

2100 Jamieson Avenue

Tel: (703) 299-3758

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

News Release

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For further information contact
Sam Dibbley at 703-842-4050

Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announces the arrest of Bernardo Arrieta Hernandez and Jose Luis Esteban Navarette-Audelo on federal charges of counterfeiting green cards, work permits, and social security cards.

Hernandez, age 30, is a resident of Falls Church, Virginia. Navarette, age 26, is a resident of Arlington, Virginia. Both men are believed to be citizens of Mexico.

Hernandez and Navarette are charged with immigration fraud and face a maximum sentence of ten years imprisonment.

In particular, Hernandez and Navarette are alleged to have run a fraudulent document mill from various apartments in Falls Church and Arlington. In return for a fee of between \$80 and \$190, Hernandez and Navarette produced counterfeit green cards (officially known as alien registration receipt cards), work permits (officially known as employment authorization documents), and social security cards for sale to immigrants in the Northern Virginia area. The cards appeared genuine to the untrained eye, but were in fact counterfeit.

The case against Hernandez and Navarette is the result of a nine-month investigation by a task force of state and federal law enforcement agencies. The participating agencies include the Fairfax County Police Department, the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Social Security Administration, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the United States Postal Inspection Service. The Fairfax County Sheriff's Office and the Arlington County Police Department are assisting the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney John T. Morton is prosecuting the case for the government.

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