

## Minnesota arrests are part of national drive targeting gangs

Pioneer Press (St. Paul, Minnesota)

January 27, 2010 Wednesday

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Distributed by McClatchy-Tribune Business News

**Section:** STATE AND REGIONAL NEWS

**Length:** 301 words

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### Body

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Jan. 27--Nine gang members and 14 gang associates in Minneapolis and nearby communities were arrested in a nationwide program focusing on gangs with ties to drug-trafficking organizations, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said today.

The arrests were part of Project Big Freeze, which netted 476 gang members, associates and other criminals in 83 cities. Agents seized 47 firearms as part of the operation.

In Minnesota, agents also arrested three individuals for administrative immigration violations, for a total of 26 arrests.

The people arrested had affiliations with the Sureno 13, Bishops, Gangster Disciples; 18th Street, Latin Kings and the Rough Tough Somali Crips gangs, according to Tim Counts, public affairs officer for ICE in Minnesota.

The arrests took place in Minneapolis, Brooklyn Park, Burnsville, Farmington, Howard Lake, New Hope, Richfield and Shakopee.

Of the 476 arrests, 207 were arrested for criminal offenses and face prosecution for various federal and state crimes including narcotics smuggling and distribution, firearms violations, identity theft, aggravated assault, obstruction, entry without inspection and re-entry after deportation. Of those arrested, 151 were U.S. citizens and 366 were foreign nationals and face deportation either now or when their criminal prosecution is complete.

This report includes information from the Associated Press.

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### Classification

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**Language:** ENGLISH

**Publication-Type:** Newspaper

Minnesota arrests are part of national drive targeting gangs

**Journal Code:** SP

**Acc-No:** 20100127-SP-**GANG-ARRESTS**-20100127

**Subject:** **GANGS** (94%); **ARRESTS** (93%); IMMIGRATION (91%); CRIMINAL OFFENSES (90%); CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES CRIME (90%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (90%); SMUGGLING (78%); ILLEGAL WEAPONS (78%); DRUG TRAFFICKING (77%); CRIMINAL ASSAULT & BATTERY (73%); FRAUD & FINANCIAL CRIME (73%); ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (72%); IDENTITY THEFT (53%)

**Organization:** US IMMIGRATION & CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (84%)

**Industry:**

**Geographic:** MINNEAPOLIS, MN, USA (91%); SAINT PAUL, MN, USA (79%); **MINNESOTA**, USA (95%); UNITED STATES (93%)

**Load-Date:** January 28, 2010

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