

Police uneasy enforcing immigration law

by UPI

WASHINGTON - A growing number of illegal immigrants' names are being added to a U.S. database giving uneasy police more obligations to enforce immigration law.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency began adding immigration warrants for deportation to the FBI-run National Crime Information Center database in 2002. The list contains about 247,500 immigration warrants, The Washington Post reported Wednesday.

Since 2002, police have encountered about 25,000 immigration fugitives, ICE said.

However, the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Major Cities Chiefs Association oppose the inclusion of non-criminal immigration warrants in the database, the newspaper said.

Police forces in Chapel Hill, N.C., and New Haven, Conn., refuse to enforce the immigration warrants, claiming it burdens them with failed federal enforcement policies, as ignoring a deportation order is a violation of administrative, not criminal, law, the Post report said.

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