



ICE had a very busy month in sanctuary New York

Federal immigration agents arrested more than 2,100 illegal aliens across New York during a month-long enforcement sweep that targeted convicted rapists, suspected child predators, drug traffickers and other criminals, according to the Department of Homeland Security.

Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin [announced](#) Tuesday that ICE agents arrested 2,197 people between July 27 and Aug. 29 under “Operation Rotten Apple,” an enforcement campaign carried out despite New York’s increasingly restrictive sanctuary policies.

“Operation Rotten Apple did what sanctuary politicians in New York City and the state of New York refuse to do: made the Empire State safer,” Mullin [said](#) during a press conference.

Mullin said ICE conducted the arrests without assistance from state or local law enforcement agencies, a point the Trump administration has repeatedly cited in its criticism of sanctuary jurisdictions.

Among those arrested, according to DHS, was Colombian national Andreas Bernal Chiquito, who had previously been arrested in connection with sexual assaults involving children.

Agents also arrested Palvinder Singh, an illegal alien from India who was convicted of rape in Germany, and Carlos Mendez-Acosta, a Venezuelan national who was convicted of rape.

The arrests put renewed attention on New York laws that limit cooperation between local authorities and federal immigration officers.

“We won’t let sanctuary politicians stand in our way,” Mullin said. “If you’re a state or local politician, your best bet is to cooperate with us so we can all make America safe again.”

The enforcement push came as Democrat Gov. Kathy Hochul’s administration moves in the opposite direction.

New York’s Local Crimes, Local Cop Act took effect Aug. 25 and required county sheriffs to terminate agreements with ICE under the federal 287(g) program, which allows trained local officers to assist with certain immigration enforcement duties.

The law also places additional restrictions on cooperation with federal immigration authorities.

Fifteen county sheriffs are now suing the state over the measure.

New York City has imposed its own barriers.

In January, Mayor Zohran Mamdani signed legislation preventing ICE from operating out of Rikers Island or other city correctional facilities, further limiting federal agents' ability to take removable illegal aliens into custody while they are already behind bars.

Trump administration border czar Tom Homan said those policies force ICE agents to pursue criminal illegal aliens after they have been released back into communities rather than arresting them inside secure facilities.

“Democratic politicians in New York and elsewhere say that they care about public safety, but won't let immigration law enforcement officers into their jails to take criminals into custody,” Homan said. “Instead they release them to their streets.”

“It makes no sense,” he added.

The Trump administration has made sanctuary jurisdictions a major target of its immigration crackdown, arguing that local non-cooperation makes arrests more dangerous for federal officers and allows deportable criminals additional opportunities to return to the streets.

Operation Rotten Apple gave the administration another example to point to: more than 2,000 arrests in one of the country's strongest sanctuary states, carried out largely without the help of the officials responsible for policing it.