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25-Year-Old Mexican Man Deported Twice Before is Again Detained for Attempting Re-Entry Into U.S. at Cyril E. King Airport

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ST. THOMAS — United States Attorney Gretchen C.F. Shappert announced Friday that Mexican national Luis Enrique De Jesus Colin Ochoa, age 25, appeared before Magistrate Judge Ruth Miller on January 19 for his initial appearance hearing following his arrest on January 18 on the charge of unlawful reentry of an alien after removal.

On January 20, 2022, Ochoa again appeared before Judge Miller for his detention hearing where she ordered Ochoa to secure 10 percent of a \$25,000 bond and released him on home incarceration.

According to court documents, on January 18 Ochoa appeared at the U.S. Customs and Border Protection primary inspection checkpoint at the Cyril E. King Airport in St. Thomas. Ochoa was a ticketed passenger on American Airlines Flight #1075 traveling to Charlotte, N.C.

During CBP's inspection, Ochoa presented a Mexican Passport which did not contain a United States Visa. Ochoa was then referred to secondary inspection for further records checks. While in secondary inspection, a routine records check revealed that Ochoa is a citizen and national of Mexico, and that Ochoa has no pending applications to enter or remain in the United States legally.

Further examination of the records revealed that Ochoa was previously apprehended in the United States on at least four occasions, and on two occasions, May 16, 2018, and January 4, 2019, orders of removal were reinstated against him leading to his deportation.

This case is being investigated by the Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations and CBP, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Delia Smith.

A criminal complaint is merely an allegation and all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.