

*CBS Mornings*

01/22/26

7:14:02 a.m.

3 minutes and 46 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: MN Officials Reject Idea They're Obstructing ICE]

NATE BURLESON: We have important new information this morning on the immigration crackdown in Minnesota. A memo obtained by CBS News shows that ICE agents have been told that they can force their way into suspect's homes without a judge's search warrant. Meanwhile, there's a new dispute between ICE and local officials in Minnesota that has officials calling ICE flat wrong. Nicole Sganga is in St. Paul covering this for us. Nicole, good morning. What is going on here?

NICOLE SGANGA: Good morning, Nate. ICE says it has taken hundreds of dangerous migrants off the streets here in this region. It also accuses state and local law enforcement officials of interfering with immigration enforcement, even letting some suspects go free. Now, CBS News has reviewed state records that suggest some of those alleged criminals were already in prison or under state law enforcement supervision, and Minnesota's top corrections official, his name is Paul Schnell — we spoke with him yesterday — seemed genuinely astonished by the Trump administration's claim that the state is releasing criminals. [TO SCHNELL] Does it feel like the Department of Homeland Security is lying when it says that state authorities are not cooperating?

PAUL SCHNELL: It is fundamentally false. We cooperate with ICE and ICE detainees. We have as a matter of policy done that for a long, long time.

ICE OFFICER [on 01/11/26]: Hands up!

SGANGA: As ICE raids have unfolded across the Twin Cities, the Trump administration has accused state leaders of protecting the worst of the worst.

MARCOS CHARLES [on 01/21/26]: The best solution is to turn them over to us in a safe, controlled setting like a jail or prison.

SGANGA: But Minnesota Corrections Commissioner Paul Schnell says that's already common practice.

SCHNELL: As they approach their release date, several weeks before, our staff coordinates directly with the local ICE office. Staff do this on a routine basis. They make arrangements for the transfer of custody of that individual.

SGANGA: For months, the Department of Homeland Security has released lists of mug shots, alleged criminals it says were seemingly tracked down and arrested by ICE, but Schnell told us that's not completely true.

SCHNELL: These are people that in many — most — they're in our system or have been in our system but they were released.

SGANGA [TO SCHNELL]: These worst of the worst criminals weren't swept up by ICE on city streets?

SCHNELL: No, they were released to ICE.

SGANGA: In one example, Schnell says his department turned these two prisoners over to immigration officials on January 12. The next day, both appeared in a DHS press release highlighting those arrested in ICE operations. That same release claimed state leaders "will not let us into their jails."

SCHNELL: Coordinated that transfer of custody and the next day, they showed up on a DHS list of among these people.

SGANGA [TO SCHNELL]: The worst of the worst list?

SCHNELL: Among the worst of the worst. And yet, exactly what should have happened happened.

SGANGA [TO SCHNELL]: You say you need it to stop?

SCHNELL: We need them to stop telling stories that are simply untrue, that we will and do coordinate on the transfer of custody of people subject to ICE detainers and will continue to do that, period.

SGANGA: We should add that Minnesota corrections said they didn't even have criminal records for some of the alleged felons that ICE says they've arrested. Now, we did reach out to the Department of Homeland Security for clarity here. They did not address the discrepancy in the numbers, but in a statement urged all Minnesota elected leaders to cooperate with ICE, Nate.

BURLESON; Nicole, thank you.