

[Jesus Fabian Gonzales Arrested in Wine Country for Arson after Wildfires ---](#) ===

10/15/2017 [Jesus Fabian Gonzales Arrested Suspicion Wine Country Fires Arson](#) Homeless illegal immigrant Jesus Fabian Gonzalez was arrested for starting a fire "to keep warm" near a bridge in Sonoma County which had just suffered a massive deadly wildfire. Sonoma County jail on arson charge and a misdemeanor drug warrant from Ventura County. Immigration authorities asked to detain him for deportation but Sheriff Rob Giordano refused citing cases where administrative detainers are unconstitutional. ICE complained of Sonoma County's repeated releases of dangerous criminal aliens complained it had sought to detain Gonzales four times in the last year and found it "troubling in light of the massive wildfires devastating the region" InfoWars and Breitbart incorrectly said the arrest was for the massive deadly fires but Giordano said (also incorrectly) "There's no indication he's related to these fires at all" though it is entirely possible and likely somebody like him set a fire this way to make it look like an innocent accident.

Details: Jesus Fabian Gonzalez was arrested Sunday, a week after numerous firestorms broke out across the region, on felony arson charges. He told deputies he set the fire at Maxwell Farms Park to keep warm. Jesus Fabian Gonzalez was arrested for setting a small fire near the bridge where he had been living in Sonoma County on Oct. 15, a week after the major fires began. He told deputies he set a fire to stay warm. He is being held on \$200,000 bail. charged with one felony count of arson. Gonzalez has been jailed eight times for minor misdemeanor offenses in Sonoma County U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, issued a request that the sheriff's office detain Gonzales so that it could pursue deportation on October 16, following the arson arrest, complained it had sought to detain Gonzales four times in the last year. Because the so-called administrative detainer was not signed by a judge, Sheriff Rob Giordano could not legally honor it, citing court cases that have found administrative detainers are unconstitutional. ICE Acting Director Thomas Homan, the Acting Director of the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement on Sonoma County's condemned repeated releases of dangerous criminal alien "Once again, a non-cooperative jurisdiction has left their community vulnerable to dangerous individuals and preventable crimes, without accusing him directly, it was troubling in light of the massive wildfires already devastating the region implying somebody like him if not him may have started the fires. Right wing media made a false connection to deadly fires: "The U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) issued a detainer request on the Sonoma County Jail for Jesus Fabian Gonzalez (sic), who was arrested Sunday on suspicion of arson in Wine Country fires that have killed at least 40 residents," says the lead paragraph of stories published on both InfoWars and Breitbart. "He was charged with arson, but not for all the fires that have caused devastation over the last 10 days. Sonoma County Sheriff Rob Giordano condemned coverage right wing stories linking him to deaths in massive fires "There is a story out there that he's the arsonist in these fires, There's no indication he's related to these fires at all. ..." He's being held in the Sonoma County jail on \$100,000 bail for this arson charge and a \$100,000 misdemeanor drug warrant from Ventura

County. Sonoma County Sheriff Rob Giordano, Snopes and Factcheck.org all debunked the notion the man arrested started the main wildfires or that it had any relationship.

10/5/2017 California Gov. Jerry Brown signed a “sanctuary state” bill that limits communication between police officers and immigration agents about people detained by police or in jail awaiting trial [Gov. Brown signs bill making California a sanctuary state - SFGate](#) protects undocumented immigrants under a controversial law signed by Gov. Jerry Brown to create a statewide sanctuary policy

*Sources

[ICE Detainer Issued for Suspected Wine Country Arsonist in Sonoma ...](#)

[www.breitbart.com/california/.../ice-detainer-issued-for-suspected-wine-country-arson...](#)

Oct 17, 2017 - UPDATE: Consistent with our subsequent coverage of the California wildfires, this story has been updated to clarify that Jesus Fabian Gonzales is not suspected of the recent Sonoma County fires that killed 40 residents. The U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) issued a detainer request ...

[Illegal Alien Charged With California Wildfire That Killed 40 People ...](#)

[www.illegalaliencrimereport.com/murder/illegal-alien-charged-with-california-wildfir...](#)

Oct 17, 2017 - SONOMA COUNTY, CA (Breitbart) – The U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) issued a detainer request on the Sonoma County Jail for Jesus Fabian Gonzalez, who was arrested Sunday on suspicion of arson in Wine Country fires that have killed at least 40 residents. Breitbart News ...

[Sonoma homeless man accused of arson but no link so far to massive ...](#)

[www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-sonoma-arson-20171017-story.html](#)

Oct 17, 2017 - Sonoma County Sheriff Rob Giordano on Tuesday afternoon tried to tamp down speculation that Gonzalez was responsible for the fires that have killed more than 40 people in Northern California and destroyed thousands of homes. “There is no indication that he is responsible for these fires,” Giordano said ...

[Sonoma sheriff shoots down Breitbart report on wine country fires ...](#)

[www.sacbee.com/news/state/california/fires/article179322896.html](#) Oct 18, 2017 - Sonoma County Sheriff Rob Giordano forcefully shot down the allegations at a press conference Tuesday afternoon. ... Right-wing websites including Breitbart and InfoWars Tuesday each published stories on the Sunday arrest of Jesus Fabian Gonzales, whom sheriff's deputies arrested on a single count ...

[ICE official, sheriff clash over Wine Country arson suspect](#)

[www.mercurynews.com/.../ice-official-sheriff-clash-over-suspected-wine-country-ars...](#)

Oct 19, 2017 - Sonoma County Sheriff Robert Giordano is firing back against accusations by a top U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement official that he refused to cooperate with ... Jesus FabianGonzalez was arrested Sunday, a week after numerous firestorms broke out across the region, on felony arson charges.

"ICE attacked the sheriff's office in the midst of the largest natural disaster this county has ever experienced," Giordano said. "Tens of thousands of people have been evacuated, many people have lost their homes, and 23 people have died in this firestorm." "Despite ICE's misleading statement, we will continue to protect and serve our community members with the strength and compassion they deserve," he continued. "I hope to end this senseless public confrontation with these facts so that I may focus on the fire recovery."

follow-up statement, Homan maintained that the sheriff's office did not contact ICE when Gonzalez was released from jail. "As the sheriff's office knows, there is currently no legal barrier that restricts their ability to simply call ICE to provide notice of the release of a criminal alien such as Gonzalez, which they failed to do following his previous multiple arrests on felony and misdemeanor charges," Homan said. "Doing so would have allowed ICE to remove a public safety threat from the community and prevented the diversion of limited resources to an avoidable crime when they should be focused on fire recovery."

[Sonoma sheriff blasts ICE for spreading 'misinformation' on arson ...](#)

www.ktvu.com/.../sonoma-sheriff-blasts-ice-for-spreading-misinformation-on-arson-s...

Oct 19, 2017 - Sonoma County Sheriff Rob Giordano today challenged implications that a Sonoma Valley man who was arrested for arson over the weekend could be ... to a press release issued Wednesday by Thomas Homan, the Acting Director of the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement about Jesus Fabian ...

ICE makes logical link to other deadly fires in area, blames on non-cooperation with immigration authorities

[Statement from ICE Acting Director on Sonoma County's repeated ...](#)

<https://www.ice.gov/.../statement-ice-acting-director-sonoma-countys-repeated-release...>

Oct 18, 2017 10/18/2017

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Statement from ICE Acting Director on Sonoma County's repeated releases of dangerous criminal alien

"Once again, a non-cooperative jurisdiction has left their community vulnerable to dangerous individuals and preventable crimes. ICE lodged a detainer against Jesus Gonzalez with Sonoma County jail officials on October 16, following his arrest on felony charges for maliciously setting fire to a property. This is especially troubling in light of the massive wildfires already devastating the region. Over the past year, ICE has lodged detainers against Mr. Gonzalez after four separate arrests by Sonoma County on various felony and misdemeanor charges. ICE was never notified of Mr. Gonzalez' various releases. Additionally, Mr. Gonzales has been returned

to his home country of Mexico on two separate occasions. The residents of Sonoma County, and the state of California, deserve better than policies that expose them to avoidable dangers. Non-cooperation policies – now enshrined in California state law – ensure only one thing: criminals who would otherwise be deported will be released and left free to reoffend as they please.”

[Sonoma sheriff shoots down Breitbart report on wine country fires ...](http://www.sacbee.com/news/state/california/fires/article179322896.html)

www.sacbee.com/news/state/california/fires/article179322896.html Oct 17, 2017 - “The U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) issued a detainer request on the Sonoma County Jail for Jesus Fabian Gonzalez (sic), who was arrested Sunday on suspicion of arson in Wine Country fires that have killed at least 40 residents,” says the lead paragraph of stories published on ... right-wing media sites linked him – without evidence – to the catastrophic fires that have killed at least 28 people in the area. Sonoma County Sheriff Rob Giordano condemned coverage “There is a story out there that he’s the arsonist in these fires, There’s no indication he’s related to these fires at all. ...”

[No Arrests for California Wildfire - FactCheck.org](http://www.factcheck.org/2017/10/no-arrests-california-wildfire/)

www.factcheck.org/2017/10/no-arrests-california-wildfire/ Q: Was an “illegal alien” arrested for starting the wildfires that have ravaged northern California? A: No. The arrest was not related to the wildfires. FULL ANSWER Several stories claiming that an immigrant living in the country without legal permission was responsible for starting them have been flagged by Facebook users as potentially fake. The stories — such as one that ran on a website called Illegal Alien Crime Report with the headline, “ILLEGAL ALIEN CHARGED WITH CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE THAT KILLED 40 PEOPLE” — cite an actual arrest, but it wasn’t related to the fires. Jesus Fabian Gonzalez was arrested for setting a small fire near the bridge where he had been living in Sonoma County on Oct. 15, a week after the major fires began. He is charged with one felony count of arson, Sgt. Spencer Crum told FactCheck.org. “He was charged with arson, but not for all the fires that have caused devastation over the last 10 days,” Crum said. [Fact check by FactCheck.org](http://www.factcheck.org/2017/10/no-arrests-california-wildfire/): False

[ICE official, sheriff clash over Wine Country arson suspect](http://www.mercurynews.com/.../ice-official-sheriff-clash-over-suspected-wine-country-ars...)

www.mercurynews.com/.../ice-official-sheriff-clash-over-suspected-wine-country-ars...

Oct 19, 2017 - Jesus Fabian Gonzalez was arrested Sunday, a week after numerous firestorms broke out across the region, on felony arson charges. He told deputies he set the fire at Maxwell Farms Park to keep warm, Giordano said in a post on the sheriff’s office’s Facebook page Thursday. The sheriff noted that the ...

[Sonoma sheriff blasts ICE for spreading 'misinformation' on arson ...](http://www.ktvu.com/.../sonoma-sheriff-blasts-ice-for-spreading-misinformation-on-arson-s...)

www.ktvu.com/.../sonoma-sheriff-blasts-ice-for-spreading-misinformation-on-arson-s...

Oct 19, 2017 - Giordano responded to a press release issued Wednesday by Thomas Homan, the Acting Director of the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement about Jesus Fabian

Gonzalez. Giordano said the press release was "inaccurate, inflammatory and damages the relationship we have with our community.

[California's deadliest fires set off debate about illegal immigration and ...
www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-fires-immigration-20171019-story.html](http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-fires-immigration-20171019-story.html)

Oct 19, 2017 - Jesus Fabian Gonzalez, who immigration officials said has been returned twice to Mexico, told deputies he set a fire in Maxwell Farms Park in Sonoma Valley, where he's been seen sleeping, to stay warm. He is being held on \$200,000 bail. A day later, federal immigration authorities said they lodged a ...

[Sonoma homeless man accused of arson but no link so far to massive ...
www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-sonoma-arson-20171017-story.html](http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-sonoma-arson-20171017-story.html)

Oct 17, 2017 - Jesus Fabian Gonzalez lived in a homeless encampment beneath the Verano Avenue bridge, spanning Sonoma Creek, just a few hundred yards from a cluster of fast-food restaurants and mom-and-pop shops. He cut an eccentric figure, occasionally seen racing around in a small bicycle, zigzagging in ...

[How the California Wildfire Was Falsely Pinned on an Immigrant - The ...
https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/20/us/wildfire-immigrant-breitbart.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/20/us/wildfire-immigrant-breitbart.html) Oct 20, 2017 - The federal agency's acting director, Thomas D. Homan, on Wednesday accused Sheriff Giordano's office of refusing to respond to federal requests about the immigrant, Jesus Fabian Gonzalez, leaving the community "vulnerable to dangerous individuals and preventable crimes." That, Sheriff Giordano ...

[ICE, Sonoma Sheriff At Odds Over California Wildfires Arson Suspect ...
https://patch.com/.../sonoma-co-arson-arrest-sheriff-responds-ices-request-hold-suspec...](https://patch.com/.../sonoma-co-arson-arrest-sheriff-responds-ices-request-hold-suspec...)

Oct 19, 2017 - "Here are the facts surrounding the recent arrest of Jesus Fabian Gonzalez. Gonzalez was arrested by the Sheriff's Office on October 15, 2017 for felony arson. He's being held in the Sonoma County jail on \$100,000 bail for this arson charge and a \$100,000 misdemeanor drug warrant from Ventura County.

[ICE Director: Suspected Wine Country Arsonist Is Illegal Alien Mexican ...
www.breitbart.com/.../wine-country-ice-director-illegal-alien-charged-with-felony-so...](http://www.breitbart.com/.../wine-country-ice-director-illegal-alien-charged-with-felony-so...)

Oct 19, 2017 - ... Thursday that a man arrested in connection with setting a fire in Sonoma County Wine Country is an illegal alien from Mexico who has been twice returned to his "home country." Homan also confirmed that ICE has issued detainer requests for Jesus Fabian Gonzalez five times now in the past year alone, ...

[FACT CHECK: Immigrants Arrested for Starting California Wildfires?
https://www.snopes.com/immigrants-california-wildfires/](https://www.snopes.com/immigrants-california-wildfires/)

Claim: Illegal immigrants were arrested for starting the October 2017 California wildfires.

Claimed by: Freedom Junkshun

[Fact check by Snopes.com](https://www.snopes.com): FALSE

