



ICA ANNUAL STATISTICS REPORT 2016



1,278

IMMIGRATION
OFFENDERS ARRESTED

351

HARBOURERS & EMPLOYERS OF
IMMIGRATION OFFENDERS ARRESTED

88,050

CONTRABAND CASES
DETECTED

43

PERSONS CONVICTED FOR MARRIAGE OF
CONVENIENCE OFFENCES



"In this current security climate, the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) remains determined and steadfast in securing our borders. As the nation's first line of defence, ICA will continue to conduct stringent checks on people, goods and conveyances while enhancing border clearance through innovation, collaboration and partnership. On this note, we will continue to work hand in hand with the community to keep Singapore safe and secure."

COMMISSIONER OF ICA, MR CLARENCE YEO

A STARK REMINDER

In February 2016, ICA officers at Woodlands Checkpoint refused entry to four male Indonesians when they sought immigration clearance at the arrival bus hall.

The group of four was found to have taken the ferry from Batam to Singapore. After staying in Johor for a couple of hours, they returned to Singapore. The men, including a 15-year-old boy, were believed to have been enroute to the Middle East to join the ISIS terror group. They were subsequently handed over to the Indonesian police.

IMMIGRATION OFFENDER SITUATION

Last year, the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) arrested 1,278 immigration offenders (IOs), a decrease from the 1,901 IOs arrested in 2015.

The number of illegal immigrants arrested dropped 30% from 310 in 2015 to 217 in 2016. The number of overstayers arrested was 1,061 in 2016, a drop of 33% compared to the 1,591 overstayers arrested in 2015.

ICA's multi-pronged approach to deter, deny and detect IOs remains a key strategy in our enforcement efforts against IOs. ICA will continue to work closely with our partners, the Singapore Police Force (SPF) and Ministry of Manpower (MOM), to enhance our enforcement efforts at the borders and within Singapore.



	2015	2016	
Illegal immigrants arrested	310	217	
Overstayers arrested	1,591	1,061	
Total immigration offenders arrested	1,901	1,278	33% 

INLAND ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS



ICA officers conducted an enforcement blitz at Rangoon Road on 13 December 2016. 11 male Chinese nationals were arrested for various immigration offences. During the operation, one of them was found hiding inside a metal cabinet.

Residential
unit at
Rangoon Road

Columbarium at Choa Chu Kang

ICA officers conducted a check at a columbarium in the vicinity of Choa Chu Kang on 15 December 2016. Five male Myanmar nationals were found without any identification or travel documents. They were convicted in court for various immigration offences, such as overstaying and illegal entry.



In a joint operation with MOM on 20 July 2016, 14 male Chinese nationals were arrested for various offences under the Immigration Act. Another three male Chinese nationals were arrested for offences under the Employment of Foreign Manpower Act.

Construction site at Shenton Way



ARRESTS OF HARBOURERS & EMPLOYERS OF IOS

Singapore's vibrant economy, strong currency and safe environment make it attractive to foreigners who seek to work and live here. While the majority of foreigners are law-abiding, a minority flout our laws by staying and working unlawfully here. ICA takes a firm stance against homeowners and employers who offer lodging and jobs to IOs.

In 2016, 351 harbourers and employers of IOs were arrested. The number of harbourers arrested decreased by 26%, from 416 in 2015 to 306 in 2016; the number of errant employers arrested declined by 51%, from 91 in 2015 to 45 in 2016.

ICA, together with other government agencies, will continue our enforcement efforts to crack down on harbouring and illegal employment of IOs. We will also intensify our community engagement efforts and work closely with stakeholders to remind homeowners and employers to conduct due diligence checks on the status of the foreigners before renting out their premises, or offering them employment. By curtailing the prospects of illegal employment and shelter, we can deter such immigration offences.

	2015	2016	
Harbourers of IOs arrested	416	306	
Employers of IOs arrested	91	45	
Total	507	351	31% ▼

A GLANCE INTO PUBLIC EDUCATION INITIATIVES

ICA will continue to pursue the following public education initiatives:

- Spreading the message that harbouring and employing IOs will pose social and security problems.
- Reaching out to stakeholders who are likely to interact with errant harbourers and/or employers through exhibitions and talks.
- Collaborating with partner agencies to inform the general public not to harbour IOs, e.g. through Crimewatch.
- Educating homeowners to perform due diligence checks on prospective tenants through the Homeowner's Guide.



DETECTION OF CONTRABAND CASES

The number of contraband cases detected at our checkpoints decreased by 8%, from 95,677 in 2015 to 88,050 in 2016.

Smugglers were found to have used new ways of concealment in their attempts to evade detection by ICA. In 2016, ICA saw the use of luxury cars and common household items (e.g. furniture and children's play mats) to conceal/smuggle contraband in a bid to avoid detection at the checkpoints. These methods of concealment remain a cause for concern, especially in the current security climate, as they could similarly be adopted by terrorists to smuggle dangerous materials such as weapons or explosives into Singapore.

ICA will remain vigilant and will not let up on our checks on passengers, goods and vehicles at the checkpoints, to prevent attempts to smuggle undesirable persons, drugs, weapons, explosives or other contraband items through our borders.



	2015	2016	
Total number of cases detected	95,677	88,050	8% ▼

INTERESTING MODUS OPERANDI

Disguised as household items



More than 2,180 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized from a consignment declared to contain 'children's play mats' at Pasir Panjang Terminal (23 August 2016).



ICA and Singapore Customs officers found 1,840 cartons of duty-unpaid cigarettes hidden in a consignment declared as 'furniture' at Changi Airfreight Centre (29 August 2016).



1,902 cartons and 3,403 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes were seized from a consignment declared as 'decorative stools' at Tanjong Pagar Gate (2 December 2016).

Using luxury cars



347 cartons and 530 packets of duty-unpaid cigarettes were concealed in various compartments of a new luxury car at Woodlands checkpoint (17 September 2016).

	2014	2015	2016
Total number of cases detected using luxury cars	1	1	5

SECURITY SENSITIVE ITEMS



An airsoft gun was found in a postal article declared as 'toys' at Airmail Transit Centre (3 November 2016).



A postal article was found to contain 15 pieces of assorted airsoft gun parts at Parcel Post Section (30 November 2016).



A replica pistol was found together with one magazine and a small packet of metal pellets in a postal article declared to contain 'toys' at Airmail Transit Centre (13 September 2016).

DETECTION OF DRUGS

About 2,780g of heroin and 480g of 'Ice' were found concealed in the compartment behind the passenger seat of a Malaysian-registered lorry (17 May 2016). The total estimated worth of the drugs was more than S\$282,000.



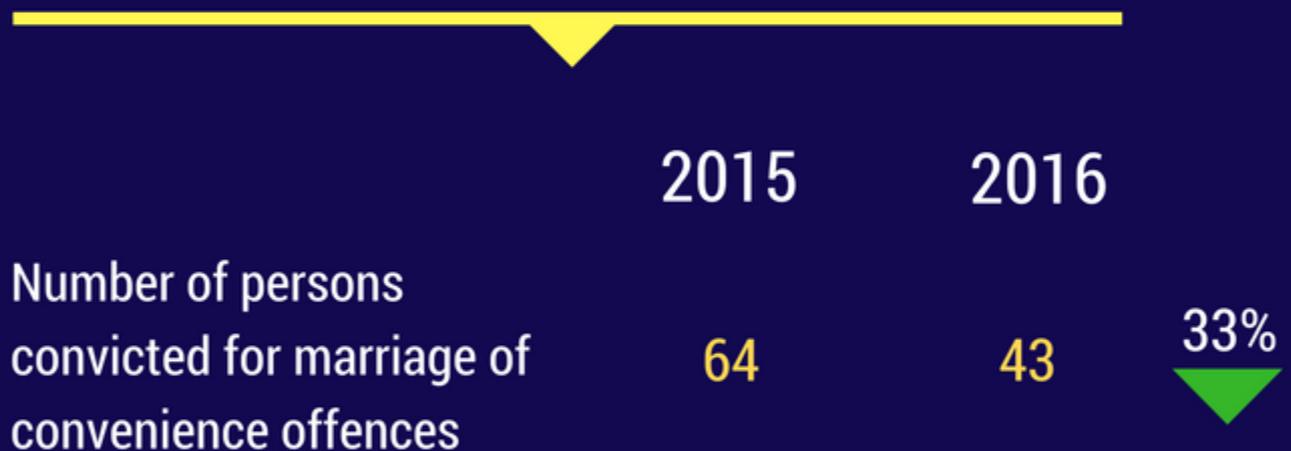
Credit: CNB

ENFORCEMENT AGAINST MARRIAGE OF CONVENIENCE

In 2016, 43 persons were convicted for marriage of convenience offences. This figure has dropped by 33% compared to the previous year, where 64 persons were convicted for marriage of convenience offences.

ICA will continue to take firm enforcement action against errant couples and middlemen who try to circumvent our laws by engaging in marriage of convenience to obtain immigration facilities in Singapore.

ICA will spare no effort in investigating such cases, and will pursue every available lead. We welcome members of the public to report any suspected case of marriage of convenience as well as other immigration-related offences to ICA at 1800-391-6150. Any information provided will be treated in the strictest confidence.



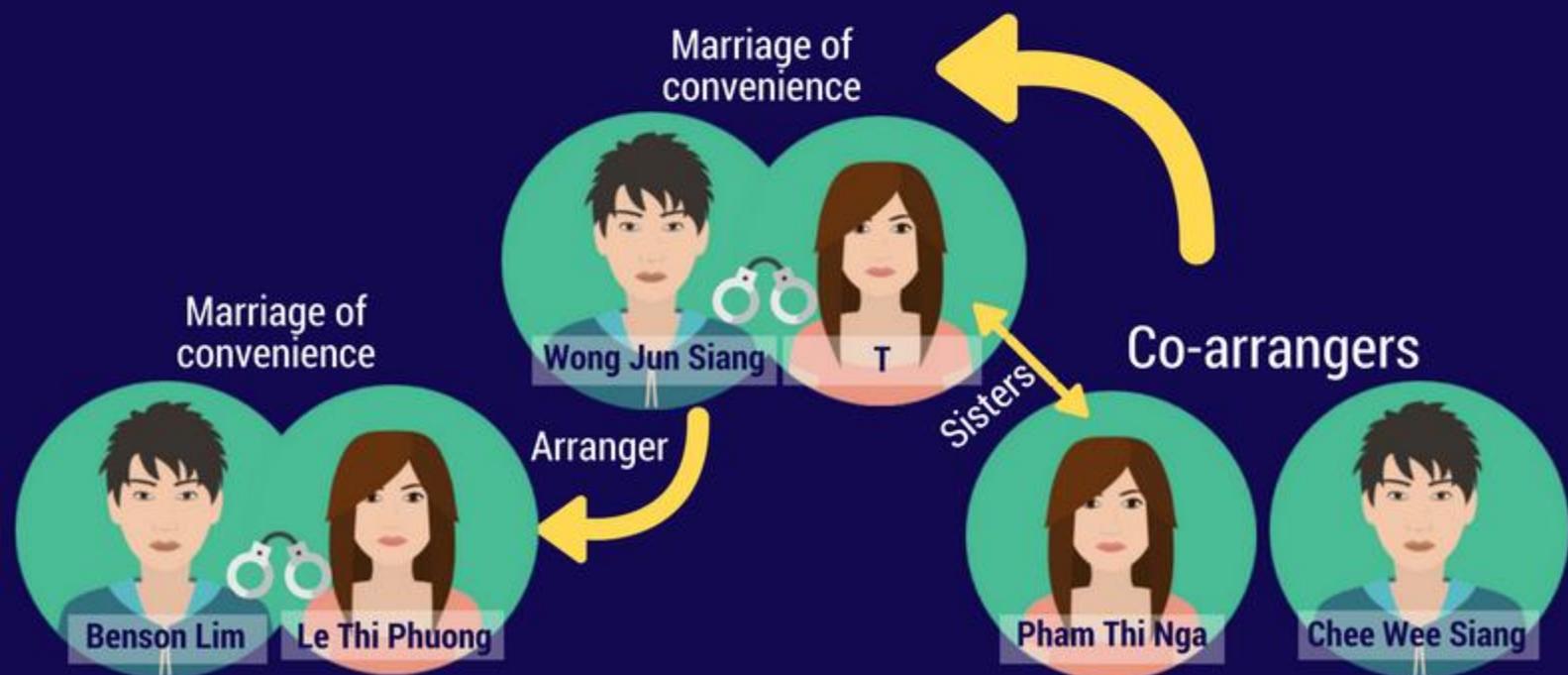
TWO SHAM MARRIAGES EXPOSED AT ONE GO

On 1 December 2016, 25-year-old Singaporean, Wong Jun Siang, was convicted for arranging and entering into a marriage of convenience, as well as abetting and making false statements to obtain a Visit Pass. For these offences, he was sentenced to a total of 11 months' imprisonment. Wong had arranged a marriage of convenience between a Singaporean man and a Vietnamese woman. He was also personally involved in another marriage of convenience with a Vietnamese woman.

In March 2014, Wong was approached by 30-year-old Singaporean, Chee Wee Siang, to enter into a marriage of convenience with a Vietnamese national, 26-year-old, known as "T". Chee had arranged the marriage of convenience with 32-year-old Vietnamese national, Pham Thi Nga, who was T's sister. Faced with financial difficulties, Wong agreed and married T. In return, he received \$5,000 from Chee.

In the same year, Wong arranged a marriage of convenience between his friend, 26-year-old Singaporean Benson Lim Wei Sheng, and 35-year-old Vietnamese national Le Thi Phuong. This was to allow Phuong to extend her stay in Singapore. For doing so, Wong received \$7,000 from Phuong.

Between 20 November 2014 and 26 October 2015, Chee, Lim, Nga and Phuong were convicted and sentenced to imprisonment terms between 18 weeks and 11 months for their involvement in and/or arrangement of marriage of convenience. T had left Singapore before the case was surfaced.





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