

May 2008

ICE Arrests Hundreds of Workers

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents arrested hundreds of undocumented workers, including 306 workers at Agriprocessors, Inc. in Postville, Iowa and more than 300 workers at Pilgrim's Pride poultry plants in five states all of whom are suspected of committing identity theft and other criminal and civil violations to obtain their jobs. The workers at the Agriprocessor plant, although originally arrested on administrative immigration charges, were subsequently charged criminally. These charges vary by individual and include allegations of aggravated identity theft, falsely using a Social Security number, illegally entering the U.S. after being deported and fraudulently using an alien registration card.

ICE special agents also detained 45 undocumented workers at 10 sites and arrested 11 individuals for conspiring to harbor undocumented workers who were smuggled into the U.S. to work in Mexican restaurants in four states. This operation involved approximately 130 ICE agents and 30 state and local law enforcement officers and began in May 2006.

ICE agents interviewed roughly 100 employees at a resort in Leesburg, Virginia. Agents arrested 53 immigration status violators and another six were apprehended outside the facility. The 59 workers are nationals of El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Honduras, Bolivia, Peru, and Argentina. All face removal proceedings.

Details on the arrests are available at <http://www.dhs.gov/ximgtn/enforcement/>.