



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill
Middle District of Florida

Tampa

Orlando

Jacksonville

Fort Myers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: STEVE COLE

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

PHONE: (813) 274-6136

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/flm/pr>

FAX: (813) 274-6300

JACKSONVILLE BUSINESS OWNER CHARGED WITH HARBORING ILLEGAL ALIENS

Jacksonville, Florida - United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill today announced that a federal grand jury in Jacksonville has returned an Indictment charging Ruben Tinoco-Tinoco, 36, of Jacksonville, with two felony counts related to hiring illegal aliens to work at his Jacksonville business, Taurus Painting, Inc.

The indictment charges Tinoco-Tinoco with harboring illegal aliens and encouraging illegal aliens to reside and work in the United States. If convicted, Mr. Tinoco faces a maximum penalty of ten years' imprisonment, plus \$250,000 in fines on each count.

On Tuesday, April 22, 2008, Mr. Tinoco made an initial appearance before United States Magistrate Judge Monte C. Richardson. He was released on \$10,000 bond. His arraignment has been set for Friday, April 25, 2008, at 10:00am before Judge Richardson.

The Indictment follows the arrests on March 13 and 14, 2008 of eleven persons in Jacksonville who were charged with either illegally re-entering the United States after being previously deported or with possession of counterfeit resident alien cards. The criminal complaints charging these offenses allege that the eleven were illegal aliens who worked for Mr. Tinoco and Taurus Painting, Inc.

This case was investigated by agents of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Dale R.

Campion and Bonnie A. Guber.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.
