



Department of Justice

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JACKSONVILLE BUSINESS OWNER PLEADS GUILTY TO HARBORING ILLEGAL ALIENS

Jacksonville, Florida - United States Attorney Robert E. O'Neill today announced that Ruben Tinoco-Tinoco, 37, of Jacksonville, pled guilty to one count of harboring illegal aliens, who worked at his Jacksonville business, Taurus Painting, Inc. Mr. Tinoco faces a maximum penalty of ten years' imprisonment, plus \$250,000 in fines. Under the terms of a plea agreement, he has also agreed to pay \$50,000 and surrender two houses in forfeiture.

Mr. Tinoco was indicted by a federal grand jury in Jacksonville following the arrests on March 13, 2008 of 34 illegal aliens at various residences in Jacksonville. According to the plea agreement, 29 of those aliens said they worked for Tinoco. According to the plea agreement, prior to March 13, 2008, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents had done surveillance at numerous houses owned by Tinoco, and at apartments for which electric and water utilities were kept in Tinoco's name. During the period of February 2007 through March 2008, surveillance had revealed numerous Hispanic males being picked up at those residences and being driven away in motor vehicles owned by either Mr. Tinoco or his business.

After pleading guilty, Mr. Tinoco was allowed to remain on bond pending his sentencing, which has not yet been scheduled.

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. Glober.