

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA San Diego, California

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For Immediate Release

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY AND ICE ANNOUNCE WORKSITE ENFORCEMENT ACTION IN IMPERIAL VALLEY

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - June 5, 2008

El Centro, CA - United States Attorney Karen P. Hewitt announced today the arraignment and unsealing of two complaints charging Carlos Ramos-Galdamez and Jouanni Francisco Perez-Tinoco, both employed by Boss 4 Packing LLC, with False Representation of a Social Security Number, a felony. According to the complaints, the defendants, for the improper purpose of employing undocumented individuals, knowingly and improperly used social security numbers which were not assigned to those individuals. At the time, Ramos and Perez were foremen for field crews employed by the Boss 4 Packing LLC, located at 1118 Rockwood Avenue, Heber, California.

In a separate but related case, on May 12, 2008, a federal grand jury sitting in San Diego handed up an indictment charging Francisco Zapot-Palacios, also employed at the Boss 4 Packing LLC as a foreman, with Harboring Illegal Aliens. According to court documents, Zapot-Palacios knowingly provided housing for undocumented workers employed by the Boss 4 Packing LLC.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents executed a federal search warrant yesterday at Boss 4 Packing LLC in Heber, California. In addition to the criminal arrests, ICE agents took 32 illegal aliens employed by Boss 4 Packing into custody on administrative immigration violations. Most of the workers were arrested in the Brawley area. The group of seven women and 25 men included foreign nationals from Mexico and Honduras. Each of these individuals were interviewed by ICE and medical staff from ICE's Division of Immigration Health Services to determine if they had any medical, caregiver, or other humanitarian issues. As a result of the interviews, one female worker was released on humanitarian grounds and scheduled for a follow-up removal processing interview. Of the remaining workers, 18 have been repatriated to Mexico, 12 are being held as material witnesses in the ongoing investigation, and one underage worker was turned over to relatives. "Those who seek to circumvent our nation's hiring laws can expect to pay a price for their actions," said Miguel Unzueta, Special Agent in Charge of the ICE office of investigations in San Diego. "These practices not only harm law-abiding businesses, they also serve to fuel illegal immigration."

Family members of those arrested may contact ICE at **760-337-3780**, for information about their relative's custody status. In addition, ICE contacted the local Mexican Consulate to provide information about yesterday's enforcement activity.

The defendants are next scheduled to be in court on June 19, 2008 at 1:30 p.m., before United States Magistrate Judge Peter C. Lewis.

DEFENDANTS

Carlos Ramos-Galdamez	Case No. 08MJ8498
Jouanni Francisco Perez-Tinoco	Case No. 08MJ8499

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Title 42, United States Code, Section 408(a)(7)(B) - False Representation of a Social Security Number
Maximum Penalties: 5 years' imprisonment and \$250,000 fine per count

AGENCIES

Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General
Social Security Administration, Office of Inspector General

A complaint or indictment itself is not evidence that the defendants committed the crimes charged. The defendants are presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.