



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
District of New Hampshire*

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*Federal Building  
55 Pleasant Street, Room 352  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301*

*603/225-1552*

**MEDIA RELEASE  
For Immediate Release  
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**Thomas P. Colantuono  
United States Attorney**

**Mark S. Zuckerman  
Assistant U.S. Attorney  
(603) 225-1552**

**THREE EMPLOYEES AT MANCHESTER AIRPORT INDICTED AND  
ARRESTED FOR MISREPRESENTING THEIR IMMIGRATION STATUS**

**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE** – United States Attorney Tom Colantuono reports that three employees at Manchester Airport were arrested by federal agents last week after being indicted for misrepresenting their immigration status on airport security badge applications and employment eligibility verification forms. Arrested were 56-year-old Eric Masimula of 10 Prospect Street in Manchester and 27-year-old Veronica Recillas of 32 Temby Drive in Nashua, and 25-year-old Julienn Levrero of 13 Wellesley Road in Nashua.

Masimula is employed by United Parcel Service as a ground handler at Manchester Airport. He was indicted by a federal grand jury on August 1 for allegedly making a false claim that he was a citizen of the United States on a Manchester Airport Security Identification Badge Application. He was arrested last Thursday and released on personal recognizance bail after being arraigned in federal court in Concord. A trial date was scheduled for September 17, 2002. If convicted, Masimula faces a maximum prison sentence of 3 years and a maximum fine of \$250,000.

Recillas is employed by Continental Airlines as a ramp agent at Manchester Airport. She was indicted by a federal grand jury on August 1 for allegedly making a false statement on an employment eligibility verification form that she was a lawful permanent resident alien. She surrendered to federal agents last Friday and was released on personal

recognizance bail after being arraigned in federal court in Concord. A trial date was scheduled for October 2, 2002. If convicted, Recillas faces a maximum prison term of 5 years and a maximum fine of \$250,000.

Levero is employed by Pro Star Aviation as an avionics mechanic at Manchester Airport. He was indicted by a federal grand jury on August 1 for allegedly making a false statement on an employment eligibility verification form that he was a citizen of the United States. He was arrested last Friday and was released on personal recognizance bail after being arraigned in federal court in Concord. A trial date was scheduled for October 15, 2002. If convicted, Levero faces a maximum prison term of 5 years and a maximum fine of \$250,000.

These indictments and arrests are the result of a 7-month federal investigation known as Operation Safe Travel that focused on whether individuals had misrepresented their backgrounds in order to obtain employment and security clearances with various companies with operations at Manchester Airport. The investigation was conducted jointly by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Office of the Inspector General for the Social Security Administration, and the Office of the Inspector General for the United States Department of Transportation. Similar investigations have been conducted at many airports across the United States since the terrorist attacks on September 11 to find possible security breaches and to prosecute those responsible.

The investigation at Manchester Airport showed that security procedures for screening employees were effective. Investigators discovered only a few employees who allegedly misrepresented their backgrounds in order to obtain employment or security clearance. None of the persons charged are believed to have caused any risk to the flying public. This investigation is on-going and additional arrests are expected.

An indictment is only an allegation and not proof of criminal conduct. As in all criminal cases, the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

These cases are being prosecuted by Assistant U. S. Attorney Mark S. Zuckerman.