

## **8 Illegal Immigrants Found at Md. Pizzeria**

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### **Body**

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Eight **illegal immigrants** were taken into custody yesterday at a Columbia **pizzeria** after a routine check by Immigration and Naturalization Service agents **found** they had bogus work papers, officials said.

The seven men and one woman were working at the Bertucci's Brick Oven **Pizzeria** in the Snowden Square shopping plaza in east Columbia, INS officials said.

All had fraudulent work and Social Security documents, the officials said.

Three of the men chose to return to Mexico and were to be flown out of the United States last night, INS officials said. A woman from Honduras, a Peruvian national and three other men from Mexico were being held in lieu of \$ 5,000 bail. Their cases will be presented before an immigration judge within 10 days.

Tony Balletta, vice president for Boston-based Bertucci's Restaurant Corp., said the employees worked in the kitchen and had presented what looked like bona fide work documents. He said he did not know how long the eight employees had worked there.

"We take an extra precaution with people we hire to avoid this from happening," Balletta said.

Knowingly hiring **illegal** workers can be punished by fines of as much as \$ 2,000 per employee. INS officials said they are investigating the case.

### **Classification**

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**Company:** BERTUCCI'S RESTAURANT CORP (69%); BERTUCCI'S RESTAURANT CORP (69%); IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE (92%); IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE (84%)

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