

## **29 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ARE ARRESTED IN AREA**

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**Byline:** Nicholas C. Wishart Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

### **Body**

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In **arrests** that took more than a year to pull off, the Immigration and Naturalization Service in St. Louis apprehended **29 illegal immigrants** from India working at hotels and doughnut shops in the **area**.

Now, the same INS officials are trying to find who helped smuggle the people into St. Louis, allegedly by escorting them past checkpoints or selling them fraudulent identification.

"We believe all of them had help," Chester Moyer, St. Louis INS officer in charge, said Monday. "We also believe some of them paid very high prices for this help. We want to know how they got here, how they obtained the documents and who they were associated with."

During a two-day period earlier this month, INS officials pulled 15 **illegal immigrants** from their jobs at three doughnut shops: one on Dorsett Road in Maryland Heights, one on Olive Boulevard in Creve Coeur and one on Florissant Road in Dellwood.

In addition, officials apprehended a total of 10 people from two hotels in St. Louis and one in Centralia, Ill. Officials found four more **illegal immigrants** at apartments in Creve Coeur and Maryland Heights.

Moyer said his office had spent more than a year interviewing everyone from landlords and employers to neighbors and acquaintances.

Some of the **illegal immigrants** had been working 10 hours a day, seven days a week. Those cases will be referred to the U.S. Department of Labor to see if the businesses violated any labor laws.

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## 29 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ARE ARRESTED IN AREA

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