

## **Ship captain, four others sentenced for smuggling Chinese immigrants**

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### **Body**

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The **captain** of a ship that **smuggled** 130 Chinese aliens into Savannah last year and five others were **sentenced** to federal prison Tuesday.

U.S. District Judge B. Avant Edenfield ruled that once they complete terms ranging from 21 months to 87 months, each of the defendants will be deported.

"I have no excuse, and I am responsible for what went on," Zhang Zhi Zhong, **captain** of the 685-foot bulk carrier Prince Nicolas, told Edenfield through an interpreter. Zhang, 34, was **sentenced** to 52 months.

Also **sentenced** were: Sun Cheng, 35, a cabin boy identified as the ship owner's representative, to 46 months; Shi Ya Dong, 60, chief engineer who left semi-retirement for one last voyage, 21 months; Zheng Huan Jian, Zheng Xiao and Li Guo Guan, each to 87 months.

They were arrested Aug. 12 after U.S. Customs officials found the aliens below deck of the docked vessel. None of the 128 people who requested political asylum has been deported, but remain in custody in Atlanta and elsewhere, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service officers said. Two have been ordered deported, they said.

### **Classification**

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