

Border Patrol detains 110 migrant workers - Correction Appended

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

 **Correction Appended**

Copyright 1997 Times Publishing Company

Section: METRO & STATE; Pg. 3B

Length: 430 words

Byline: BONNIE LAMP FOWLER

Dateline: RUSKIN

Body

Federal agents rounded up **110** illegal aliens in south Hillsborough County this week, sending most of them by bus and plane to a Texas **border** town for voluntary deportation to Mexico.

The crackdown sent 12 immigration agents from across Florida into the Ruskin and Wimauma areas for daytime sweeps on Monday and evening searches on Tuesday, said Steve McDonald, the U.S. **Border Patrol** agent in charge. It was the most extensive operation in the area since McDonald came to the **Border Patrol**'s Tampa station from Arizona in October, he said.

ROUNDUP

Florida Highway **Patrol** troopers assisted the agents and pulled over vehicles on U.S. 41, State Road 674 and U.S. 301 "based on reasonable suspicion that immigration laws were being violated," McDonald said. **Border Patrol** agents questioned occupants and examined their identification.

Non-U.S. citizens legally residing in the United States are required to carry immigration documentation at all times. Those without documentation during this week's roundup were interviewed by agents, checked against computer files and taken by chartered bus to a U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service center in Bradenton.

Of **110** originally **detained**, 63 people on Monday and 30 on Tuesday, all men, were arrested and sent Wednesday to Brownsville, Texas.

"They were given the opportunity for a hearing before an immigration judge, but all of these people requested to return to Mexico voluntarily," McDonald said.

Others with families were allowed to remain temporarily in Hillsborough County with the promise they would leave for Mexico within 30 days. Immigration agents have their addresses to check on their status, McDonald said.

The two days of high-profile activity, with agents questioning car passengers, pedestrians and people in parking lots, heightened fears in the south county Latino community, even among legal **workers**, some said.

Wimauma **migrant** outreach **worker** Ninfa Martinez said her own legally documented clients reported few **workers** in the fields and sparse attendance at area jobs and day care centers once the **migrant** operation began.

McDonald said agents did not go into fields to question farm **workers** but may have pursued into the fields some suspects who fled from their vehicles during interviews.

Border Patrol detains 110 migrant workers - Correction Appended

He said the operation was prompted in part by inquiries and complaints about migrants working here illegally. Area residents called the Border Patrol or would "walk up to our units and ask us when are we going to do something," McDonald said.

Correction

The Florida Highway Patrol assisted the Border Patrol during a recent enforcement effort against illegal immigrants by stopping motorists who had violated traffic laws. A story in Thursday's Times incorrectly described the Highway Patrol's role.

Correction-Date: January 17, 1997

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Subject: BORDER CONTROL (94%); IMMIGRATION (93%); TERRITORIAL & NATIONAL BORDERS (91%); LAW ENFORCEMENT (90%); IMMIGRATION LAW (90%); SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE FORCES (90%); MIGRANT WORKERS (89%); US FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (79%); ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (78%); DEPORTATION (78%); CITIZENSHIP (78%); ARRESTS (78%); FOREIGN LABOR (78%); POLITICAL DETAINEES (77%); POLICE FORCES (76%); INTERVIEWS (73%); HISPANIC AMERICANS (72%); FARM LABOR (70%); JUDGES (65%)

Company: US CUSTOMS & BORDER PROTECTION (91%); US CUSTOMS & BORDER PROTECTION (91%); IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE (55%); IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE (55%)

Organization: US CUSTOMS & BORDER PROTECTION (91%); US CUSTOMS & BORDER PROTECTION (91%); IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE (55%); IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE (55%)

Industry: MOTORCOACHES & BUSES (78%); PARKING SPACES & FACILITIES (70%); FARM LABOR (70%)

Geographic: TAMPA, FL, USA (79%); BROWNSVILLE, TX, USA (79%); TEXAS, USA (92%); FLORIDA, USA (92%); MEXICO (93%); UNITED STATES (93%); NORTH AMERICA (79%)

Load-Date: January 17, 1997