

## **INS sting nets 8,000 arrests, 75 smugglers**

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### **Body**

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About **8,000** people from 39 countries who were planning to enter the United States illegally have been **arrested** this month, the Immigration and Naturalization Service said yesterday.

The **sting**, dubbed Operation Crossroads International, involved law-enforcement agencies **in** the United States, Canada, and 12 Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Officials said **75 smugglers** and illegal-document vendors also were **arrested** during the June 4-20 operation.

"The message is clear - the United States is committed with its partners to pursuing **smugglers** wherever they operate," said Hipolito Acosta, the **INS** Mexico City director who oversaw the operation.

More than 5,500 of those **arrested** have been returned to their countries, the **INS** said.

The **sting** is the ninth anti-smuggling operation the **INS** has conducted **in** five years.

### **Classification**

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