SOUTH: 300 DETAINED IN IMMIGRATION RAID AT PLANT

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Body

SOUTH

300 DETAINED IN IMMIGRATION RAID AT PLANT

Federal agents <u>detained</u> more than <u>300</u> workers suspected of being illegal immigrants in a <u>raid</u> at a chicken processing <u>plant</u> in Greenville, S.C. No charges had been filed, but the authorities were searching for evidence of illegal hiring practices at the <u>plant</u>, the House of Raeford. The employees could face deportation and prison time, said Barbara Gonzalez, a spokeswoman for <u>Immigration</u> and Customs Enforcement. The <u>raid</u> followed months of investigation. In June, arrest warrants were issued for 11 workers on charges of identity theft and entering the country illegally. Seven have pleaded guilty, two are awaiting trial and two are fugitives. The human resources director at the <u>plant</u>, Elaine Crump, was also charged with instructing employees to provide fraudulent documentation. A federal review showed that more than 775 of 825 employees at the <u>plant</u> submitted false information, said Kevin McDonald, an assistant United States attorney. ROBBIE BROWN

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