

## **METRO NEWS BRIEFS: NEW JERSEY;** **Judge Orders Release Of 23 Immigrants**

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### **Body**

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More than three months after they scrambled onto an Ocean County beach on a foggy night, **23** illegal Chinese **immigrants** were **ordered released** from Federal custody yesterday, pending further immigration proceedings.

All **23** had been granted bail by immigration **judges** considering their requests for political asylum, but were then detained by Federal prosecutors as witnesses to an alien-smuggling operation.

Two men have admitted roles in the botched smuggling, and three others face trial in United States District Court on Nov. 16.

Four of the Chinese gave depositions to prosecutors and were **released** earlier this month.

Assistant United States Attorney Carolyn A. Murray asked United States Magistrate Joel A. Pisano to let the remaining 19 go, saying that prosecutors would not depose them. He agreed. The 19 were then turned over to the Immigration and Naturalization Service for processing and **released** on the bonds set by immigration **judges**.

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