

AROUND THE NATION;

Court Affirms U.S. Acted Illegally on Haitians

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Body

The United States violated the rights of 4,000 Haitians by holding mass deportation hearings to clear a "staggering" backlog of aliens from southern Florida refugee camps, a Federal appeals court held today. NEW ORLEANS, May 24 (UPI) -The United States violated the rights of 4,000 Haitians by holding mass deportation hearings to clear a "staggering" backlog of aliens from southern Florida refugee camps, a Federal appeals court held today.

The United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit affirmed the decision of a lower court, which decided that immigration officials violated the

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refugees' right to due process in the 1979 deportation hearings. The case developed in the spring of 1979 when the courts ordered immigration officials to provide "speedy" hearings for Haitians in Florida refugee camps. "Between six and seven thousand unprocessed Haitian deportation cases were pending," the court said. "These were staggering numbers."

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