

## **THE MIDTOWN SINKHOLE Many refugees find jobs at Marriott Hotel chain helps victims' families with funeral costs**

The Atlanta Journal and Constitution

June 16, 1993, Wednesday

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**Section:** LOCAL NEWS; Section C; Page 4

**Length:** 365 words

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### **Body**

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The **Marriott hotel chain**, which lost two employees in a parking lot **sinkhole**, often hires immigrants and **refugees** to work in housekeeping, the restaurant and other parts of the **hotel**, social service workers said Tuesday.

The **victims** of Monday's tragedy were from Guatemala and Moldova, a former republic in the Soviet Union. Guatemalan Oscar Cano, 33, worked in the restaurant at the Courtyard by **Marriott hotel** in **Midtown**. Victoria Vaynshteyn, 26, from Moldova, was a hostess in the restaurant.

**Marriott** is **helping** both **families** with **funeral** arrangements, a **hotel** spokeswoman said. An attorney for Ms. Vaynshteyn said **Marriott** also was paying for her **funeral** and would fly her parents and **family** from Moldova to Atlanta for the **funeral**.

Mr. Cano's **family** could not be reached for comment.

Phyllis Stallman of the **Refugee** Employment Resource Center said the **Marriott** is "immigrant-friendly."

"The **Marriott** is just one of **many hotels** that hire immigrants and **refugees**," she said.

Ms. Vaynshteyn got her **job** after attending a **job** fair and filling out a **Marriott** application 18 months ago.

"They hired her as a hostess," said Lillian Bykhovsky of Jewish Vocational Services, who took Ms. Vaynshteyn to the **job** fair.

"She's a very sweet, very pleasant person, always smiling, very charming," Ms. Bykhovsky said.

"The **Marriott** was very responsive to the **refugees**," she said, adding that she **helped** other Russians **find** work there.

Ross Gelfand, a **family** friend and a lawyer who is representing Ms. Vaynshteyn's **family**, said she arrived in Atlanta with her husband, Boris, and young son, Benjamin, two years ago. Mr. Vaynshteyn's father, Lazar, who came with them, died of a heart attack within two weeks of arriving. They also lost \$ 25,000 in possessions when some of their luggage was lost.

"These poor people have got nothing," Mr. Gelfand said. "The little boy, Benjamin, is 4. He's supposed to start kindergarten in the fall. Now he's asking for his mommy. The needs of the **family** are great."

A fund has been established for people who want to **help** the Vaynshteyn **family**. Checks can be sent to: The Vicky Fund in care of Ross Gelfand, P.O. Box 921209, Norcross, Ga. 30092.

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## Graphic

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Photo: mug of Victoria Vaynshteyn

## Classification

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**Language:** ENGLISH931730674

**Subject:** IMMIGRATION (90%); REFUGEES (90%); RECRUITMENT & HIRING (90%); FAMILY (89%); SERVICE WORKERS (78%); EMPLOYMENT FAIRS (78%)

**Company:** MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL INC (92%); MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL INC (92%); MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL INC (92%)

**Ticker:** MAR (NYSE) (92%); MAR (NASDAQ) (92%)

**Industry:** HOTELS & MOTELS (91%); RESTAURANTS (90%); HOTEL CHAINS (89%); PARKING SPACES & FACILITIES (58%)

**Geographic:** ATLANTA, GA, USA (90%); GEORGIA, USA (56%); MOLDOVA, REPUBLIC OF (90%); RUSSIAN FEDERATION (73%)

**Load-Date:** June 22, 1993