

3 are held in fatal van crash on I-70

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

June 22, 2005 Wednesday, FIVE STAR LATE LIFT EDITION

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Section: METRO; Pg. B2

Length: 217 words

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Body

Federal immigration agents arrested three people on suspicion of alien smuggling two days after a **van** packed with migrant workers **crashed** on Interstate 70, killing five and injuring 15 more.

Gelson Mancilla-Santiago, 22, of Guatemala, and two other passengers in the **van** were in federal custody Tuesday, said Carl Rusnok, a spokesman for the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency.

Investigators believe that Mancilla-Santiago was the driver of the **van** that rolled off Interstate 70 just west of Columbia, Mo., shortly before 7 a.m. Sunday. The workers were heading east in search of better jobs on the East Coast.

The 15 injured passengers were taken to area hospitals in Columbia on Sunday. Passengers told the Missouri Highway Patrol that the driver had fallen asleep at the wheel, the patrol said.

Immigration agents on Tuesday asked the U.S. attorney's office in Kansas City to charge Mancilla-Santiago with alien smuggling, Rusnok said. Mancilla-Santiago and two other passengers were being **held** Tuesday night at a jail in Shawnee County, Kan. Rusnok said Mancilla-Santiago has been deported from the United States twice before.

The 2001 Chevrolet **van** that **crashed** had California license plates and was scheduled to make stops in New York, Washington, South Carolina and Georgia, Rusnok said.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: IMMIGRATION (91%); LAW ENFORCEMENT (90%); SMUGGLING (90%); ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (78%); ARRESTS (78%); MIGRANT WORKERS (78%); FOREIGN LABOR (78%); ALIEN SMUGGLING (78%); POLICE FORCES (74%); DEPORTATION (73%); DRIVER BEHAVIOR (71%)

Organization: US IMMIGRATION & CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (57%)

Industry: DRIVER BEHAVIOR (71%)

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Geographic: KANSAS CITY, MO, USA (79%); COLUMBIA, SC, USA (79%); MISSOURI, USA (92%); SOUTH CAROLINA, USA (79%); NEW YORK, USA (79%); GEORGIA, USA (79%); KANSAS, USA (79%); CALIFORNIA, USA (79%); UNITED STATES (94%)

Load-Date: June 23, 2005

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