

Gwinnett firm pleads guilty to harboring illegal immigrants

The Atlanta Journal and Constitution

November 24, 1999, Wednesday,, Home Edition

Copyright 1999 The Atlanta Constitution

Section: Local News; Pg. 6B

Length: 282 words

Byline: Mark Bixler, Staff

Body

A Lawrenceville company that brings foreign nationals here to work on Y2K computer problems **pleaded guilty** Tuesday **to harboring illegal immigrants**. Investigators said the company schemed to bring at least 43 programmers from India to Atlanta.CONSTITUTION

The Immigration and Naturalization Service said Deep Sai Consulting Inc. got visas for the 43 and promised to find them jobs paying \$ 40,000 to \$ 60, 000 a year. It said most of the 43 ended up in apartments in Duluth and Norcross, waiting for work that never came.

Larry Hines, INS investigations section chief, said he thinks "there are a lot of companies that know they can do this. It's nothing but white-collar alien smuggling."

INS Agent Chad Holth said Deep Sai's president, Syamala Kamineni, applied for visas for more than 200 Indian nationals. The government approved about 60 applications before it started to investigate. It made no decision on the other applications pending a yearlong investigation by the INS and U.S. Department of Labor.

Jay Strongwater, attorney for Deep Sai and Kamineni, said he expects a judge to fine the company about \$ 20,000. The company **pleaded guilty** to a felony in U.S. District Court in Atlanta. Last week, Kamineni **pleaded guilty** to a misdemeanor alleging she recruited **immigrants** not eligible to work here. A judge put her on probation for a year.

Kamineni said she lined up jobs for the people from India but that the market soured and job prospects dissolved by the time they arrived. The government said about a dozen of the 43 Indians eventually got programming jobs. Another 30 got tired of waiting and left to seek jobs on their own. Investigators do not know what became of them.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Subject: IMMIGRATION (91%); PASSPORTS & VISAS (90%); **ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS** (90%); US FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (90%); **GUILTY PLEAS** (90%); CITIZENSHIP (78%); SMUGGLING (78%); MISDEMEANORS (78%); INVESTIGATIONS (78%); LAWYERS (74%); LABOR DEPARTMENTS (73%); FINES & PENALTIES (73%); FELONIES (73%); ALIEN SMUGGLING (73%); LAW COURTS & TRIBUNALS (66%)

Company: IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE (90%); IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE (58%); US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (55%); US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (55%); IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE (90%); IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE (58%); US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (55%); US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (55%)

Gwinnett firm pleads guilty to harboring illegal immigrants

Organization: US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (55%); US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (55%)

Industry: LAWYERS (74%); YEAR 2000 PROBLEM (58%)

Geographic: ATLANTA, GA, USA (90%); INDIA (92%); UNITED STATES (92%)

Load-Date: November 24, 1999

End of Document