

## **Raids on illegals continue; prisoners to be deported**

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### **Body**

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Federal immigration officials **raided** six more metro Atlanta job sites on Tuesday, detaining about 100 illegally employed foreign nationals for immediate **deportation**.

Also, the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service's Atlanta district office signed an accord with Gov. Zell Miller agreeing to remove from Georgia prisons some 300 criminals who are either in the United States illegally or who, through criminal acts, have forfeited their right to remain in this country.

Calling the joint agreement "the next step in ridding our state of criminals and saving the taxpayers money," Miller said the transfer of foreign nationals out of the state's prisons will save more than \$ 5 million a year.

**Deporting** the criminals also will open up needed space in prisons that are rapidly approaching the saturation point, Corrections Commissioner Allen Ault said.

The joint agreement is part of an INS initiative, "Operation Southpaw," that began Monday with the detention and **deportation** of 150 undocumented workers from four Atlanta job sites. On Tuesday, federal agents detained an additional 100 foreign nationals at job sites in Chamblee, Hapeville, Kennesaw, Lithonia and Atlanta.

As a result of the joint agreement, the state Pardons and Parole Board will begin releasing to the INS for **deportation** state inmates with drug, theft and burglary convictions, state officials said.

Although the INS has for years had the authority to **deport** state inmates, the agency only detained convicts after they were paroled, said board Chairman Wayne Garner, and there was no guarantee they would remain in custody until they were **deported**.

Garner said he suspects the INS is now responding to political pressure generated by growing national concerns about illegal aliens. "The INS is getting with the program," he said.

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