

# **INS TURNED BACK IN APPEALS CASE ON DEPORTATION**

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## **Body**

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An **appeals** court in California has upheld a nationwide injunction against the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service for failing to notify thousands facing **deportation** of their right to contest allegations of using false documents. The three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of **Appeals** affirmed a lower-court ruling that the INS had violated the Constitution by failing to inform people charged with using false documents that they could request hearings to rebut the allegations.

In 1996, a Seattle judge barred the INS from continuing its current practices and ordered the government to provide clear information to immigrants about their rights. Moreover, the INS was ordered to place media notices in Mexico and elsewhere in Latin America to notify people who may have been wrongly **deported** because of allegations of document fraud without understanding those rights.

The **appeals** court opinion, written by Judge Stephen Reinhardt after hearings in Pasadena, largely **backed** the lower-court ruling. The judges assailed the "complexity and ineptness" of the INS procedures, concluding that even those with "a reasonable command of the English language would not receive adequate notice" from the agency. Some 5,000 immigrants nationwide faced **deportation** after being accused of using false documents under a 1990 law. Those accused are seeking hearings to contest the charges. The INS has argued that everyone targeted had received adequate notice.

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