

## **12 Held in Ring to Obtain Papers for Illegal Aliens**

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**Byline:** By ARNOLD H. LUBASCH

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### **Body**

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Four immigration workers and two Army recruiting sergeants were charged yesterday with taking bribes as part of a ring that **obtained** green cards and other documents for more than 1,000 **illegal aliens**, mostly West Indians living in Brooklyn and Queens, Federal authorities said.

Six other people were also taken into custody in a series of early morning raids, the authorities said.

Among those arrested were a supervisor and three clerks for the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service at 26 Federal Plaza in Manhattan. The authorities identified the leader of the ring as John Felix, 53 years old, of Brooklyn. He does not work for the immigration service.

All the suspects were charged with conspiring to pay and receive bribes to **obtain** official documents. They could be sentenced to up to 15 years in prison, said Andrew J. Maloney, the United States Attorney in Brooklyn.

A defense lawyer, David L. Lewis, said the suspects denied the charges.

The scheme mostly involved **obtaining** documents for **aliens** who sought to stay beyond the time their temporary visas allowed, prosecutors said.

The ring charged fees of up to \$6,000 the arrest complaint charged. Gordon Mehler, a prosecutor, said Mr. Felix had boasted in a taped conversation of making millions of dollars.

The ring was uncovered after an immigration worker became suspicious of a supervisor, Johnnie Boston, who later agreed to cooperate, Mr. Mehler said. He said Mr. Boston received about \$100,000 in bribes.

The Army sergeants, Prakash Ramsingh and Edward Shuler, work in recruiting offices in Queens. They **obtained** documents from the ring so that **aliens** could enlist, the prosecutors said. An **alien** who completes three years of Army service can be naturalized immediately.

The clerks, accused of receiving lesser bribes, were identified as Carol Pelzer, Tara Gilliam and Cheryl Kelly. The other defendants are Mr. Felix's wife, Rosanna Felix, George Grant, Thomas Johnson, Trevor Selman and a woman identified only as Pearl, all of Brooklyn.

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