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Greeley detainees being transported back to Colorado

Staff Reports

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DENVER --

The Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials are returning about 75 people taken in the Greeley Swift raid back to Colorado after they were shipped to a federal immigration jail in Texas.

There were taken to the jail despite a judge's previous order that no one picked up in the raid should be taken out of state. U.S. District Judge John Kane signed the order on Dec. 13, barring ICE from sending detainees out of Colorado.

The decision to transport the detainees back to Colorado came after United Food and Commercial Workers Local 7 filed a lawsuit in Denver and charged ICE of illegally detaining, interrogating and jailing several workers. The union represents 1,800 workers at the Swift plant.

ICE claims the raids on the Greeley meat plant and five other Swift facilities were aimed at stopping what a government news release calls "a massive identity theft scheme." Only 10 of the 262 workers detained in the Greeley Swift raid have been charged so far with ID theft related crimes.

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