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## 19 held in raid face charges of ID theft

By [Dan Browning](#), Star Tribune

A federal grand jury in Minneapolis indicted 15 people on identity-theft charges and four more on other identity-related counts, all stemming from last week's raid on the Swift & Co. pork processing plant in Worthington, Minn.

The immigration raids on Swift plants in six states led to the arrests of nearly 1,300 people, including 230 in Worthington, in what was described as a crackdown on illegal immigrants using stolen identities to get jobs.

Most were held on immigration violations, and on Monday, family members watched bond hearings for Minnesota detainees at the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement office in Bloomington.

Also Monday, a Guatemalan woman arrested in the Worthington raid was released from jail so she could be reunited with her 13-month-old son.

As a result of Monday's grand jury indictments, 19 people each were charged with two counts of using unlawfully obtained documents for employment and employment verification purposes in Minnesota, and 15 of them each were charged with an additional count of aggravated identity theft.

Each was charged with using a Social Security card belonging to individuals identified only by initials in the indictments. The other charges involve the use of state identification cards or driver's licenses, 15 of which were issued in Minnesota and one each from Arizona, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas.

One other defendant, Jorge Delgado-Angelino, 35, of El Salvador, was charged with re-entering the United States after a previous deportation. If convicted, he could face up to two years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, followed by deportation.

Using unlawfully obtained documents to secure a job carries a penalty of up to 10 years in prison and up to a \$250,000 fine, according to state sentencing guidelines. Aggravated identity theft can add two more years' imprisonment and \$250,000 in fines.

Calls to immigration officials were referred to a spokesman in Minneapolis, who was unavailable.

Eight of the defendants are from Mexico, seven are from Guatemala, four are from El Salvador and one is from Honduras, according to the U.S. attorney's office.

Also Monday, Catalina Rodriguez Perez, a 25-year-old Guatemalan woman whose 13-month-old son was at a baby sitter's house when she was detained during the Swift raid, was released from jail.

The sitter, Amy Juarez, a U.S. citizen who married a Guatemalan, drew attention to the case after she had difficulty finding out where Rodriguez Perez was being held.

Juarez finally found her in jail and arranged a visit for her son, Hamilton -- who is a U.S. citizen -- on Sunday. A group of about 30 adults and 20 children held a candlelight vigil that night outside the Nobles County jail.

Ben Casper, a lawyer who volunteered to help Rodriguez Perez, said immigration authorities notified him Monday morning of his client's pending release. Casper said Sunday that ordinarily women in Rodriguez Perez's circumstances are released on their own recognizance. But for reasons that were unclear, that hadn't happened in this case.

Casper said that Richard Soli, the chief counsel for immigration in this region, learned about the woman's plight Sunday and offered to look into it.

Richard Rocha, a immigration spokesman in Washington, said that because the matter is part of an ongoing investigation, the agency would not comment on her case.

Also Monday, the first bond hearings for the former Swift workers were held at immigration offices in Bloomington.

One of the detainees being held in the Twin Cities, Marvin Guzman Rodriguez, told immigration Judge Joseph Dierkes that he had purchased a Social Security card in California in 2003 for about \$500 in order to work in the United States. The card had someone else's name on it, but he didn't know who that person was, he said.

His bail was set at \$6,500, said Richard Baquero, an immigrant advocate for the Baquero Law office in Minneapolis.

Hearings are expected to continue through the week.

Staff writer Jean Hopfensperger contributed to this report. Dan Browning • 612-673-4493 • [dbrowning@startribune.com](mailto:dbrowning@startribune.com)

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