



The United States Attorney's Office

Northern District of Iowa

Press Releases

FIRST CRIMINAL ARRESTS MADE IN POSTVILLE CASE

May 13, 2008

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Twenty people, 10 men and 10 women, have been arrested on criminal charges following their detention at Agriprocessors, Inc. in Postville, Iowa, on May 12, 2008. Those people, and others who are arrested on federal charges, will appear in federal court in Waterloo. The men will appear at 4:00 p.m. today, and the women are expected to appear at 10:00 o'clock tomorrow morning. This follows the immigration arrest of 390 on May 12.

"This is not the first time the Court in the Northern District of Iowa has temporarily moved to handle criminal cases related to immigration work site enforcement operations," said Dummermuth. "Twice before the court has relocated: to Charles City in Spring 1996 and to Waterloo later in 1996."

Charges vary by individual and include felony allegations of aggravated identity theft and false use of social security numbers. As with any criminal case, a charge is merely an accusation and a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

Those charged criminally will receive attorneys and will appear before a Magistrate Judge for an initial appearance. The court plans to post names and appearance times on its website and at the court site in Waterloo with hearings starting at 4:00 pm. Anyone detained on a criminal charge will be placed in the U.S. Marshal's custody and no longer be held in temporary detention facilities.

Men facing criminal charges will be housed in Estel Hall until they have appeared in court on those charges. Women facing criminal charges will be housed in local jails until they have appeared in court on those charges.

After initial appearances, anyone not released pending their next court appearance will be turned over to the custody of the United States Marshal for placement in local jails.

Anyone not facing criminal charges but detained administratively will be housed in Estel Hall or local jails until they are removed or otherwise moved to another facility for completion of the administrative matter.