

Department of Justice

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Western District of New York

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RESTAURANT OWNER PLEADS GUILTY TO INDUCING ILLEGAL ALIENS TO RESIDE AND REMAIN IN THE UNITED STATES

ROCHESTER, N.Y.-- Makhan Singh, 47, of Rochester, NY, entered into a guilty plea before Hon. Charles J. Siragusa, United States District Judge, on September 22, 2009, to the felony charge of inducing illegal aliens to remain in the United States, U.S. Attorney Kathleen M. Mehlretter of the Western District of New York announced today. The charge carries a maximum term of 5 years in prison, a fine of \$250,000 or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Tiffany H. Lee, who handled the case, stated that the defendant, who between December 2006 and December 2007, owned various Thali of India restaurants throughout the Western District of New York, admitted during the plea proceeding to knowingly encouraging and inducing approximately nine aliens to work for him in his restaurants and live in premises he provided in the Western District of New York, knowing and in reckless disregard of the fact that the aliens did not have status to reside in the United States and knowing and in reckless disregard of the fact that their continued residence in the United States was in violation of law.

The plea was the culmination of an investigation conducted by Special Agents from the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement under the direction of Lev Kubiak, Special Agent in Charge.

Sentencing is scheduled for December 23, 2009 at 9:15am.