

NEWS RELEASE



OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA San Diego, California

***United States Attorney
Laura E. Duffy***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - October 13, 2011

United States Attorney Laura E. Duffy announced today the unsealing of a criminal complaint in connection with an Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations investigation into Betty's Car Wash, located at 9821 Carmel Mountain Road, San Diego, California. The complaint, filed in federal court, charges the owner of the car wash, Ju Hea Kim, and the manager of the car wash, Sun Jae Lee, with conspiracy to harbor illegal aliens, in violation of Title 8, United States Code, Sections 1324(a)(1)(A)(iii) and (v)(I).

According to the complaint, the majority of the employees working at Betty's Car Wash did not have authentic, legal documents allowing them to work in the United States. Additionally, the business hired back two employees who were deported while working at the car wash and then returned to the United States illegally. The complaint further states that on April 18, 2011, Kim instructed two employees to hide because of the presence of immigration officials.

Also according to the complaint, Lee previously instructed one employee to obtain a new social security card after Lee received a letter from the Social Security Administration. Lee instructed another employee to obtain a new Legal Permanent Resident card. When Lee saw the card the employee obtained, Lee laughed and asked the employee how much he paid for the card.

On October 12, 2011, ICE executed search warrants at Betty's Car Wash and arrest warrants for Kim and Lee. The suspected illegal aliens encountered during the incident are being charged as material witnesses.

The defendants were arraigned earlier today and are next scheduled to be in court on October 17, 2011 at 2:00 p.m., before United States Magistrate Judge William V. Gallo.

DEFENDANTS

Case Number: 11MJ3742

Ju Hea Kim
Sun Jae Lee

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Title 8, United States Code, Section 1324(a)(1)(A)(iii) and (v)(I) - Conspiracy to Harbor Illegal Aliens
Maximum penalty is five years in prison and a fine not to exceed \$250,000 for each defendant.

INVESTIGATIVE AGENCY

Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations

A complaint itself is not evidence that the defendants committed the crimes charged. The defendants are presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.