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News Release

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Eagan man sentenced for harboring illegal aliens

MINNEAPOLIS – Earlier today in federal court, a 63-year-old Eagan man was sentenced for harboring five illegal aliens for the purpose of financial gain. United States District Court Judge Joan N. Ericksen sentenced Joo Ok Kim to 24 months in prison on one count of harboring and concealing aliens. Kim was indicted on March 18, 2010, and pleaded guilty on August 18, 2010.

In his plea agreement, Kim admitted that from November of 2008 through March of 2009, he kept five Mexican nationals in his basement for the purpose of having them work at his siding business. Kim also admitted transporting the five men to job sites in his truck. Authorities discovered the men on March 28, 2009, when they responded to a disturbance call at Kim's residence.

Following today's sentencing, Mike Feinberg, Special Agent in Charge of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations St. Paul Field Office, said, "This sentence is an outstanding example of our worksite enforcement strategy, which focuses on employers who knowingly hire illegal workers. HSI will use all of our resources to target criminal enterprises that break the law, exploit workers and gain an unfair advantage over businesses which chose to operate within the law."

This case was the result of an investigation by ICE HSI and the Eagan Police Department. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael A. Dees.

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