



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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AUSTIN AREA BUSINESSMAN SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON IN VISA FRAUD SCHEME

The United States Attorneys Office for the Western District of Texas announced that in Austin today, 55-year-old Jose Ramiro Vicharely of Cedar Park, Texas, President and Executive Director of International Staffing Solutions, Inc., doing business as Texas Staffing Resources (TSR), was sentenced to 41 months in federal prison in connection with an H-2B visa fraud scheme.

In addition to the prison term, United States District Judge Lee Yeakel ordered that Vicharely be placed under supervised release for a period of three years after completing his prison term. Judge Yeakel ordered the criminal forfeiture of approximately \$312,000 in cash proceeds and five vehicles derived from this illegal scheme. Judge Yeakel also imposed a \$1 million monetary judgment against Vicharely and the rest of the defendants in this case representing the proceeds of the defendants' fraudulent scheme.

On September 15, 2011, Vicharely pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit visa fraud and one count of conspiracy to encourage aliens to illegally enter and reside in the United States. By pleading guilty, Vicharely admitted that he and others have conspired since August 2004 to knowingly obtain H-2B visas under false pretenses. According to the court records, the defendants approached several Austin businesses and offered to obtain H2B visas for foreign nationals to come and work for their companies or for undocumented aliens already working in their companies. Oftentimes unbeknownst to the employers, the defendants would then submit fraudulent visa petitions with forged signatures or bogus supporting documentation requesting significantly more foreign workers than required or requested by employers. The defendants would sell excess slots on visa petitions to other undocumented aliens in the Austin area for between \$1,500 and \$2,200 per slot. Furthermore, the defendants also traveled to Mexico to help undocumented aliens prepare and submit immigration forms, coach them as to what to say when interviewed by U.S. Consulate officials and collect final payments from undocumented aliens.

The other defendants in this case, Vicharely's wife, 29-year-old Irma Lopez Vicharely; his daughter, 32-year-old Angela Paola Faulk; Faulk's husband, 25-year-old Servando Gonzalez, Jr., of Austin; and, former TSR account manager 44-year-old Pedro Saul Ocampo Munguia of Pflugerville, TX, all pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit visa fraud. In November 2011, Judge Yeakel sentenced Faulk to 17 months in federal prison; Irma Vicharely and Gonzales, to two years probation each. Munguia failed to appear for sentencing and is considered a fugitive.

This case was investigated by special agents with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations (ICE-HSI). Assistant United States Attorneys Dan Guess, Jennifer Freel and Garth Backe prosecuted this case on behalf of the Government.

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