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## Federal Agents Arrest 69 Immigrants in Baltimore in Raids

By JULIA PRESTON

Immigration officers arrested 69 immigrants yesterday in raids at a temporary job agency and eight sites where the agency had placed workers in the Baltimore area, including several warehouses in the city's port.

The officers also seized \$636,000 from the job agency, Jones Industrial Network, and searched its offices. The money was suspected of being proceeds from the employment of illegal immigrants, according to James Dinkins, special agent in charge in Baltimore for Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Most of the arrests were made at a Baltimore packaging plant belonging to Under Armour Inc., an athletic clothing maker. In a statement, the company said the immigrants worked for Jones Industrial Network and were not Under Armour employees. Immigration officials said Under Armour was not a target of the criminal investigation.

The raids were the latest in a series of high profile operations by immigration authorities seeking to crack down on employers of illegal immigrants. The raids have sent a chill through many workplaces, as employers scrambled to try to verify employment documents and millions of illegal immigrant workers hoped to avoid detection.

On March 6, immigration agents arrested more than 360 people at Michael Bianco Inc., a leather goods manufacturer in New Bedford, Mass., including hundreds of immigrant workers as well as the owner of the company, Francesco Insolia, and three managers. Three days later, state and federal charges were brought against Ivan Hardt, the president of an Arizona construction company, Sun Drywall and Stucco, and seven managers accused of hiring illegal immigrants.

An uproar followed the New Bedford raid, with advocates for the immigrants saying that children had been left alone without their parents and that immigrants who were arrested did not receive legal counsel.

In Baltimore, immigration agents seemed to go out of their way to avoid another political furor. Immigrant advocates there said agents contacted several groups ahead of time to say there would be a raid. Representatives from Maryland Child Protective Services and federal health officials accompanied the agents on the raids. The immigration agency set up a hotline for relatives of immigrants who were arrested.

Immigration officials said 20 of the immigrants arrested yesterday would be released on humanitarian grounds at their deportation proceedings.

Mr. Dinkins said the investigation began a year ago with a tip that illegal immigrants were employed in Baltimore's port. The immigrants arrested were accused of civil violations of being in the country illegally. No managers from Jones Industrial Network were arrested, but the authorities said the criminal investigation remained open.

Jones Industrial Network shares a Baltimore telephone number and office address with another temporary labor agency, Jones Networking. A person who answered the phone at the number said the two companies were separate, but declined to comment further.