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## Howard Industries official pleads guilty in raid

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HATTIESBURG, Miss. (AP) - The only company executive indicted in the nation's largest workplace raid on illegal immigrants has pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy.

Prosecutors would not discuss details of the plea agreement they reached with Jose Humberto Gonzalez, but he only pleaded guilty to one charge of a 12-count indictment that alleged he knowingly hired illegal immigrants at Howard Industries.

More than 600 were arrested in the August 2008 raid on the maker of electrical transformers in Laurel. Several illegal immigrants have been convicted of identity theft and deported, but Gonzalez was the only company official charged. He refused to comment as he left the federal courthouse.

He faces up to five years on the conspiracy charge. Sentencing is March 31.