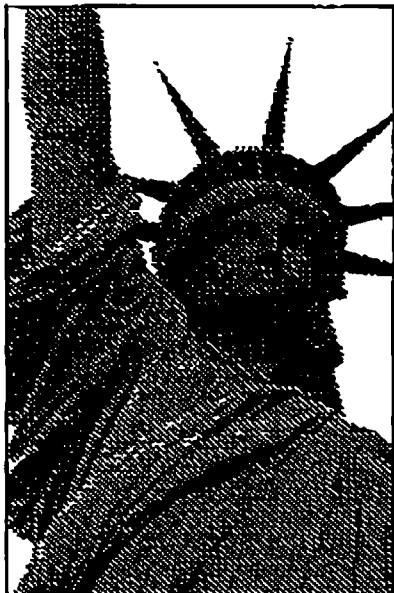




HERE'S AN INTERESTING FAX...

... From the Office of Public Affairs
U.S. IMMIGRATION & NATURALIZATION SERVICE

425 I Street, NW, Washington, DC 20536



(202) 514-2648



(202) 514-1776

Date: 10/31/97

Fax to: LEANNE SCHIMABUKURO

Fax Number: 456-7028

From: Eric C. Andrus 202/514-8080/2648 FAX: 202/514-9833

Pages (Including Cover): 6

Comments: AS REQUESTED.

— ERIC



NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Media Services
Office of Public Affairs
(202) 514-2648 Fax: (202) 514-1776

October 30, 1997

INS Increases Removals a Record 62 Percent Over FY 1996 *Year-End Total Tops 110,000, 20 Percent Over Goal*

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) removed more than 110,000 criminal and other illegal aliens during Fiscal Year (FY) 1997*, an increase of more than 42,000 over last year's record and 18,000 over its target of 93,000 removals, according to preliminary figures.

The FY 1997 total of 111,794 formal removals is 62 percent higher than last fiscal year's record of 69,040. Fourth-quarter removals in FY 1997, which totaled 35,368, included 11,880 removals in August, a new monthly record.

"Removing more than 110,000 illegal aliens from the United States is a significant milestone in improving enforcement of our immigration laws," said Attorney General Janet Reno. "We are making U.S. streets and communities safer by deporting increasing numbers of criminal aliens."

INS Commissioner Doris Meissner added that INS is removing almost 1,000 criminal aliens a week from the United States, as compared to about 700 per week in 1996. "In the past four years, with new resources provided by Congress, we have created innovative programs that have significantly improved our ability to remove illegal immigrants from our workplaces and prisons."

Criminal alien removals totaled 50,165 for FY 1997, 35 percent above last year. Of the criminal aliens removed, 61 percent had convictions for crimes considered aggravated felonies under immigration law. Drug convictions accounted for 43 percent of the criminal alien removals.

Removals of other deportable aliens reached 61,629 for the fiscal year, up 93 percent from FY 1996. The recently established expedited removal process, which began April 1, contributed to this increase, producing about 23,000 mostly non-criminal removals in its first six months of implementation.

The three states with the largest numbers of removals during FY 1997 were California with more than 46,000 criminal and other illegal alien removals, Texas with nearly 27,000 removals, and Arizona with almost 12,000 removals.

(more)

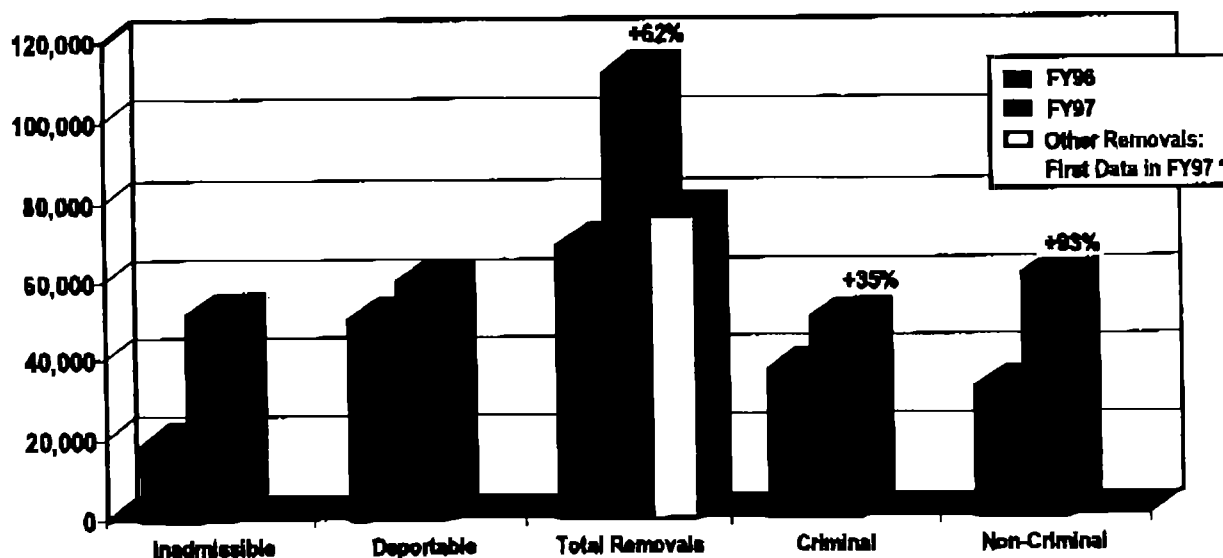
Fiscal Year 1997 Removals Break Existing Record

Page 2

In addition to the number of aliens formally removed, INS also removed 76,844 aliens without formal proceedings in FY 1997. This category includes several methods of removal, but most are aliens who elect to waive any hearing before an immigration judge and voluntarily return to their home countries. When combined with the formal removals, INS identified, apprehended and removed almost 190,000 aliens for the fiscal year. That figure does not include an estimated 1.3 million aliens apprehended and returned at the border.

-INS-

FY 1997 Removals Set New Record of Illegal Alien Removals



FY97	51,749	60,045	111,794**	50,165	61,629
FY96	18,719	50,321	69,040**	37,067	31,973

- Notes: 1. Final Order Removals = Criminal + Non-Criminal removals OR Deportables + Inadmissibles.
 2. Because Entries Without Inspection (EWIs) will now be removed on the basis of inadmissibility grounds instead of deportability grounds, percentage changes will no longer be calculated for tables that break removal numbers into deportable and inadmissible categories. Such comparisons are no longer meaningful. However, the percentage change calculations will continue for total removals and criminal and non-criminal removals.
 * Other Removals have only been tracked beginning this fiscal year.
 ** Does not include Other Removals (voluntary returns)

(more)

Fiscal Year 1997 Removals Break Existing Record

Page 3

FINAL ORDER REMOVALS: Top Nationalities in FY 1997

Country	Deportables	Inadmissibles	Total Removals	% Of Total	Criminal Removals	Non-Criminal Removals
Mexico	41,746	43,153	84,899	76	38,475	46,424
El Salvador	3,118	625	3,743	3	1,491	2,252
Honduras	2,946	786	3,732	3	1,078	2,654
Guatemala	2,576	815	3,391	3	786	2,605
Dominican Republic	2,024	579	2,603	2	1,925	678
Colombia	1,254	700	1,954	2	1,459	495
Jamaica	1,057	673	1,730	2	1,175	555
Canada	244	409	653	1	374	279
Nicaragua	468	84	552	0	165	387
Ecuador	228	256	484	0	134	350
China, People's Rep.	56	406	462	0	43	419
Haiti	217	244	461	0	254	207
Peru	238	189	427	0	148	279
Philippines	287	98	385	0	168	217
Nigeria	226	154	380	0	245	135
United Kingdom	299	67	366	0	171	195
Brazil	88	223	311	0	32	279
India	98	166	264	0	33	231
Pakistan	95	153	248	0	59	189
Trinidad & Tobago	174	67	241	0	162	79
Other Countries	2,606	1,902	4,508	4	1,788	2,720
TOTAL	60,045	51,749	111,794	100	50,165	61,629

Source: Office of Policy and Planning, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service

Notes: 1. Total Removals = Criminal + Non-Criminal removals OR Deportables + Inadmissibles.

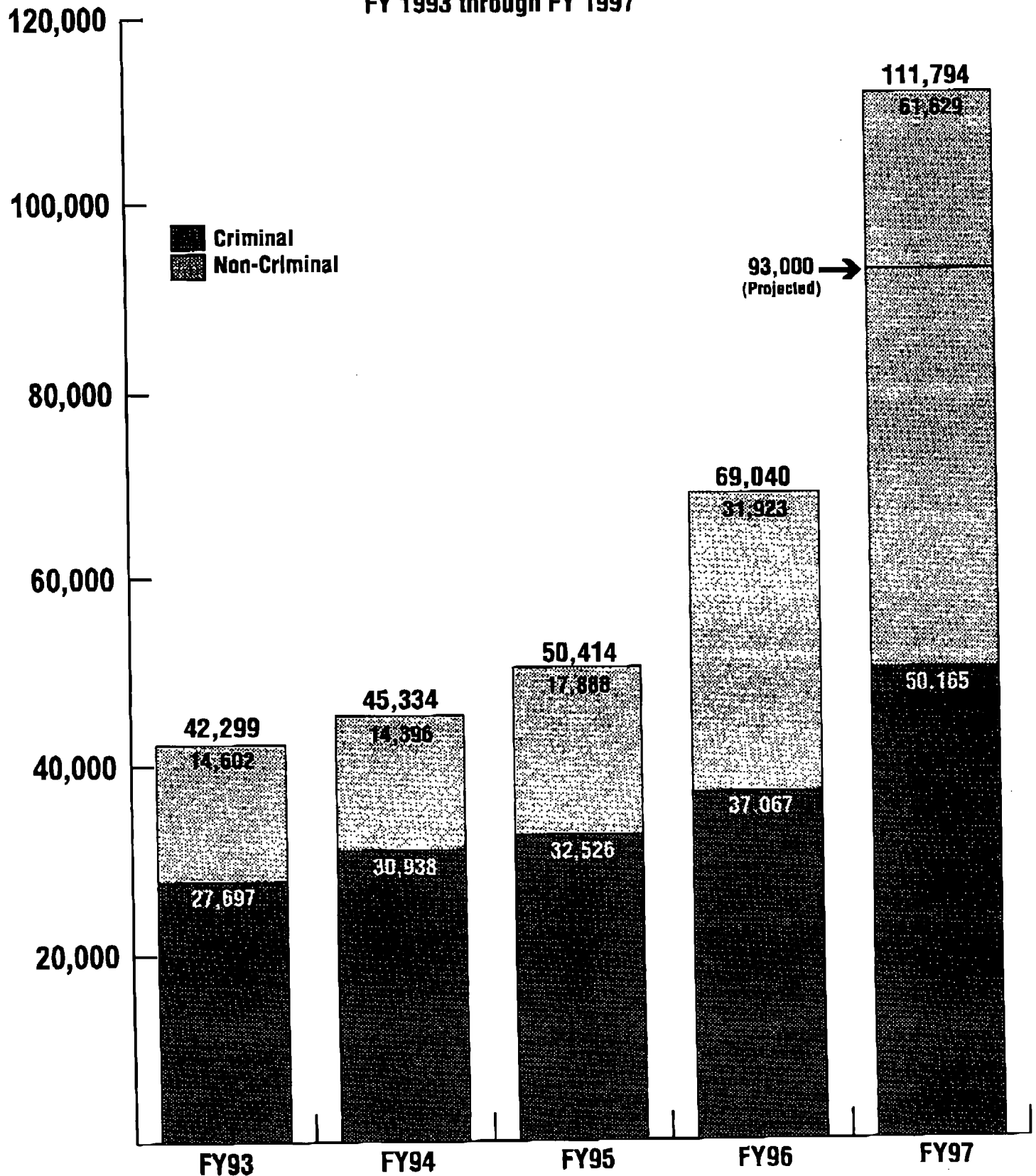
2. Figures include verified removals through September 30, 1997.

Removals by INS District in Major Metropolitan Areas

Location	FY 96	FY 97	% Increase
Atlanta, GA	482	984	104
Baltimore, MD	348	489	41
Boston, MA	808	946	17
Miami, FL	1,548	3,602	133
New York, NY	1,536	2,999	95
Newark, NJ	174	879	405
Philadelphia, PA	969	1,557	61
Chicago, IL	441	1,181	168
Dallas, TX	1,936	4,595	137
El Paso, TX	3,902	6,978	79
Houston, TX	1,783	3,497	95
Los Angeles, CA	5,597	8,357	50
Phoenix, AZ	9,859	11,898	21
San Diego, CA	23,206	34,932	51
San Francisco, CA	1,871	2,951	58

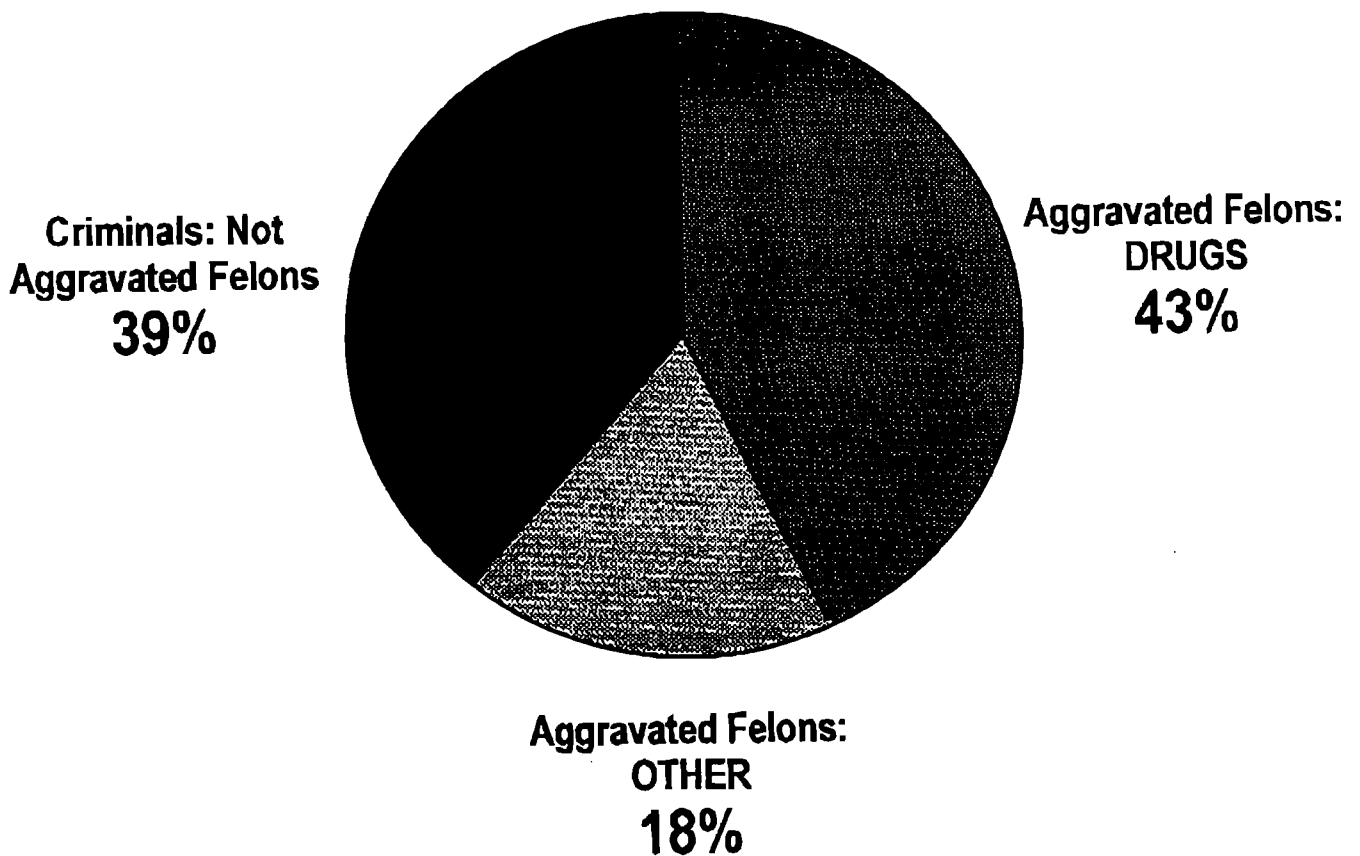
INS Criminal & Non-Criminal Alien Final Order Removals

FY 1993 through FY 1997



10/29/97

50,165 Criminal Aliens Removed in FY 1997



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DOJ BUDGET STAFF

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*File: Immigration
Deportation #'s*



QUARTERLY REMOVALS REPORT

**SECOND QUARTER FY 97:
JANUARY - MARCH**

**U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service**

FY 1996 and FY 1997 Removals by Month*

		Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Yr to Date	FY TOTAL
TOTAL REMOVALS	FY 96	5,519	4,805	5,011	6,011	5,645	6,062	5,961	6,054	5,501	5,397	6,472	6,219	33,053	68,657
	FY 97	7,325	6,073	6,133	8,020	7,194	7,381							42,426	42,426
	Change	33%	26%	28%	33%	27%	22%							28%	
Deportations	FY 96	4,090	3,635	3,811	4,415	3,910	4,353	4,233	4,489	4,067	3,903	4,762	4,686	23,924	50,064
	FY 97	5,664	4,716	4,916	5,285	4,964	5,183							30,728	30,728
	Change	38%	30%	29%	28%	26%	19%							28%	
Exclusions	FY 96	1,429	1,180	1,200	1,896	1,715	1,709	1,728	1,565	1,434	1,494	1,710	1,533	9,129	18,593
	FY 97	1,661	1,357	1,517	2,735	2,230	2,198							11,698	11,698
	Change	16%	15%	26%	44%	30%	29%							28%	
"Port Court" exclusions	FY 97	1,024	1,006	1,026	1,503	1,381	1,495							7,435	7,435
Criminal Removals	FY 96	2,972	2,602	2,752	3,071	2,836	3,126	3,111	3,314	3,177	2,907	3,581	3,440	17,359	36,909
	FY 97	4,152	3,469	3,749	4,360	3,682	3,878							23,290	23,290
	Change	40%	33%	36%	42%	30%	24%							34%	
Deportations	FY 96	2,618	2,347	2,499	2,765	2,509	2,736	2,715	2,952	2,805	2,576	3,233	3,114	15,474	32,869
	FY 97	3,863	3,188	3,310	3,617	3,185	3,250							20,433	20,433
	Change	48%	36%	32%	32%	27%	19%							32%	
Exclusions	FY 96	354	255	253	306	327	390	396	382	372	331	348	326	1,885	4,040
	FY 97	289	281	439	723	497	628							2,857	2,857
	Change	-18%	10%	74%	136%	52%	61%							52%	
Non-criminal Removals	FY 96	2,547	2,203	2,259	2,940	2,809	2,936	2,850	2,720	2,324	2,490	2,891	2,779	15,694	31,748
	FY 97	3,173	2,604	2,684	3,660	3,512	3,503							19,136	19,136
	Change	25%	18%	19%	24%	25%	19%							22%	
Deportations	FY 96	1,472	1,278	1,312	1,350	1,421	1,617	1,518	1,537	1,262	1,327	1,529	1,572	8,450	17,195
	FY 97	1,801	1,528	1,606	1,648	1,779	1,933							10,295	10,295
	Change	22%	20%	22%	22%	25%	20%							22%	
Exclusions	FY 96	1,075	925	947	1,590	1,388	1,319	1,332	1,183	1,062	1,163	1,362	1,207	7,244	14,553
	FY 97	1,372	1,076	1,078	2,012	1,733	1,570							8,841	8,841
	Change	28%	16%	14%	27%	25%	19%							22%	

* Unless otherwise noted, all percentage changes in this report are increases. Decreases are displayed with "-".

Outstanding Final Orders of Deportation and Exclusion

- The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) estimates that there were 201,500 active outstanding final orders of deportation and exclusion as of the end of March 1997, an increase of 4 percent from the first quarter. In addition, approximately 500 cases with outstanding final orders are administratively closed by INS each month, usually after a period of 3-to-5 years from the date of the initial issuance of the order, when efforts to locate aliens who have absconded have not been successful.

Highlights of the Quarterly Report on Removals

- The total number of removals achieved through the second quarter of FY 1997 surpassed the number achieved through the second quarter of FY 1996 by 28 percent.
 - The FY 1997 removal goal is 93,000 removals pursuant to a final order of deportation, exclusion, or removal. The mid-year removals results show that the Service removed 42,426 aliens subject to a final order of deportation or exclusion in the first half of FY 1997, and roughly 46% of our goal. This preliminary count will increase slightly over the next few months for a final first quarter total of approximately 43,500.
 - FY 1997 goal: This preliminary count will increase slightly over the next few months for a final first half total of approximately 43,500.
 - Criminal removals increased over the numbers achieved through the second quarter of FY 1996 by 34 percent, with criminal deportations up 32 percent and criminal exclusions up 52 percent.
 - Non-criminal removals increased 22 percent over the number achieved through the second quarter of FY 1996.
 - "Port Court" exclusions accounted for 64 percent of all exclusions through the second quarter of FY 1997 and 18 percent of all removals. The increase in Port Court numbers in the second quarter of FY 1997 over the first quarter is due to the addition of a Port Court initiative in the Harlingen District.
-

Definitions

With the exception of Port Court Removals, the data in this report are from the Deportable Alien Control System (DACS). The removals numbers reflect removals effected from January 1 through March 31, 1997, as reported in DACS by April 20, 1997, and reflect the month in which the removal occurred.

Total Removals: Reflects the sum of deportations and exclusions or the sum of criminal and non-criminal removals. Removals are witnessed and sometimes accompanied departures from the country pursuant to final orders of exclusion or deportation, and are the only numbers credited toward agency removals targets.

Removal numbers do *not* include alien departures from the country that are not pursuant to a final order, such as voluntary returns under safeguard (VRs), voluntary departures (also known as required departures under docket control), or withdrawals.

Deportation: The formal removal of an alien from the United States, based on a final order of deportation issued by an immigration judge, a Federal judge, or an INS officer.

Exclusion: The formal denial of an alien's request for admission into the United States, based on a final order of exclusion issued by an immigration judge or an INS officer.

Criminal Removal: The deportation or exclusion of an alien who has a criminal conviction noted in DACS.

Non-criminal Removal: The deportation or exclusion of an alien whose record in DACS does not reflect a criminal conviction.

Outstanding Final Orders of Deportation and Exclusion: The total number of final orders of deportation and exclusion that have not yet been executed. In most cases, these are orders issued *in absentia* to aliens who failed to appear for their deportation hearing or to aliens who were not in Service custody when they received their order and who subsequently absconded. The number also includes aliens who received orders of voluntary departure from immigration judges but who either failed to provide required documentation of their departure or whose authorized departure period has expired. The number does not include orders of voluntary departure issued by an immigration judge in which the departure period granted has not yet expired, nor does it include deportation orders issued to aliens who cannot be deported due to difficulties in arranging for their travel documents. The number also does not include outstanding orders in cases that were administratively closed by INS after a 3-to-5 year period following the issuance of the order. There are approximately 500 of these cases closed every month.

File: Immigration
Deportation

Los Angeles Times FRONT PAGE

HELP



Monday, June 23, 1997

Deportation of Criminals, INS Fugitives at New High

■ Immigration: Number expected to reach 93,000 this fiscal year. In Los Angeles area, a task force regularly hits the streets just after dawn.

By PATRICK J. MCDONNELL, Times Staff Writer

[PREV STORY](#)[NEXT STORY](#)

Teams of federal immigration agents are knocking on doors, canvassing jails and prisons and hitting job sites nationwide as part of the Clinton administration's unprecedented push to track down and expel immigrants--both illegal and legal--who are subject to deportation.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service expects to deport 93,000 people during the current fiscal year--35% more than last year's record pace. One-third of 1997 deportees resided in Southern California.

Federal officials have long targeted illegal immigrants in the immediate U.S.-Mexico border area. But the aggressive use of formal deportation procedures underscores an evolving new priority: tracking down noncitizens and deporting them because they committed crimes here or ignored past deportation orders.

Huge numbers of illegal immigrants ordered deported have eluded detection and melded into the population. They are now considered fugitives.

In the Los Angeles area, a year-old deportation task force armed with arrest warrants regularly hits the streets just after dawn. Its target: some of the region's estimated 30,000 fugitives from deportation. Many longtime illegal immigrants are awakening to the din of INS agents with warrants for their arrests rousing them from their beds.

"I hardly had time to get dressed," said a distraught Olinda Chong Rojas, a 30-year-old mother of four who spoke in the INS lockup in downtown Los Angeles shortly after being arrested for deportation back to her native Guatemala.

INS agents arrived at Chong's East Los Angeles apartment at 6 a.m. recently. She was told to pack a bag for her trip back to Guatemala. Like many now facing expulsion, Chong was previously denied political asylum and ordered deported. But, as is usually the case, Chong did not surrender to INS

authorities as ordered.

As few as 1 in 10 people with deportation orders actually turn themselves in to the INS, the agency says.

Chong's 2-year-old daughter, Yajaira, a U.S. citizen by birth, accompanied her mother back to a land the girl had never seen.

"I wanted something better for my daughter, for all my children," said the tearful Chong, who earned \$600 a month here as a housekeeper, sending half of it back to her three other children, ages 4, 5 and 8, who remained in Guatemala. "Now I'm going back with nothing in my pocket. Everything I've worked for--all my dreams of a better life for my family--all that has been shattered."

* * *

Until recently, the INS has lacked the time and resources to look for people like Chong. But huge funding increases--the INS annual budget has more than doubled in the past four years, to \$3.1 billion--have resulted in both greatly bolstered deportation staff and expanded detention space.

The deportation push has also resulted in heightened anxiety in some ethnic neighborhoods of Southern California, where the nation's largest concentration of illegal immigrants has come to feel relatively secure. Some fear a return to the days when INS agents routinely roamed the streets, detaining those who appeared suspect--a practice largely abandoned more than a decade ago in the face of public pressure.

"This kind of activity can destroy a whole community," said Father Dennis P. O'Neil, pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, which draws its congregation from L.A.'s Pico-Union and Koreatown neighborhoods--home to the country's most concentrated Central American community.

But federal officials stress that the current actions are targeted--focusing on criminals and fugitives who have exhausted all appeals and were ordered deported.

"There is no plan to design efforts to make sweeps through neighborhoods, which would cause great alarm and fear," said Brian Jordan, an INS spokesman in Washington.

Last month, President Clinton assured a summit of worried Central American presidents that "mass deportations" were not in the offing.

In some quarters, the deportation push is lauded as a long-overdue response to runaway illegal immigration. According to official statistics, almost 300,000 new illegal immigrants settle in the United States each year--far outstripping even current deportation numbers.

In fact, many in Congress and elsewhere would like to see the INS put even more effort into finding and arresting some of the 5 million illegal immigrants living in the United States.

"The Clinton administration has fallen steadily behind on a

fast-moving treadmill," said U.S. Rep. Lamar Smith (R-Texas), who heads the House immigration subcommittee.

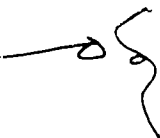
In their new push, INS officers are aggressively going after people with deportation orders, using high-technology aids. Because many addresses are out of date, agents in Los Angeles are cross-checking motor vehicle lists, credit records and other databases, while also interviewing relatives and neighbors and hitting workplaces. Computers have allowed teams of agents here to converge on fugitives from deportation in specific ZIP codes, thus saving travel time.

"This is definitely a priority for us," said Leonard Kovensky, the INS deportation chief in Los Angeles, whose previous INS postings in Athens and Moscow involved quite different tasks: processing refugees for entry into the United States.

Frequently, agents with deportation warrants encounter families with mixed immigration statuses, typically cases like that of the Chong family: undocumented parents with U.S.-citizen children. Parents in that predicament are given the option of leaving their offspring behind with relatives or loved ones.

"It can be very wrenching," Kovensky said. "It's a tough choice to have to give somebody. But it's our responsibility to enforce the law."

* * *



Also being swept up in the widening dragnet are increasing numbers of legal immigrants who are subject to deportation because of criminal pasts. The new immigration law passed by Congress last year greatly widened the kinds of criminal activity that render legal immigrant noncitizens subject to "removal," as deportation is now known, including spousal abuse and many categories of theft and document fraud.

"I never thought this would happen to me," said a stunned Johnny Constantin, a 29-year-old Romanian legal immigrant who was in deportation proceedings in Los Angeles last week after INS agents plucked him from jail because of a previous conviction for methamphetamine possession.

As a criminal, Constantin is the INS's stated first priority for arrest and deportation. In stark contrast to just a few years ago, INS agents are now regularly checking jails and prisons, attempting to ensure that deportable lawbreakers do not walk free once their criminal sentences are served.

Today, an INS team maintains a 24-hour presence at the Los Angeles County Jail, where about 5,000 inmates have been arrested and put into expulsion proceedings since last October. In some cases, immigration judges are even hearing prison inmates' cases while they complete their sentences, thus assuring speedy expulsion once their time is completed.

According to the INS, about 55% of the 42,426 people

deported nationwide in the first six months of fiscal 1997 had criminal records. The Clinton administration, constantly assailed by Republicans as soft on illegal immigration, has touted the escalating deportation numbers.

"Each time INS removes one of those criminal aliens, we take another dangerous person off the streets and out of our communities," said David Martin, INS general counsel.

The accelerated deportation campaign is also netting large numbers of so-called "incidental" arrests. Typically, these are illegal immigrants who have the bad luck to be living in homes targeted for raids because former occupants have deportation warrants pending against them.

"I'm just glad my kids never saw this happening to me," said Ramon Campusano, a 29-year-old illegal immigrant from Mexico arrested at his family's Los Angeles apartment at 6:30 a.m., as his two U.S.-born children slept.

A restaurant chef, Campusano said he had lived here 13 years without incident until INS agents knocked at his door. He admitted that he would probably attempt to return once he was sent to Mexico.

* * *

But deportees now risk prison terms of up to 10 years if they return to the United States illegally and are recaptured.

In coming months and years, the number of people facing deportation is expected to grow dramatically--as is the likelihood that they will be apprehended if they do not surrender.

Fidelia Flores, a 41-year-old travel agent from the Philippines, knows her time may be running out.

Flores, who has been fighting deportation for a dozen years, contends that it would cause great hardship to her U.S.-born son and daughter and to her husband, a naturalized U.S. citizen. Her deportation is currently stayed while the U.S. Court of Appeals decides whether it even has authority under the new law to review her case and many others like it, said her attorney, Carl Shusterman of Los Angeles.

"My life is here with my family, not in the Philippines," Flores said during an interview at her attorney's office. "If I'm deported, what will happen to my family?"

* * *

Rising Deportations

The INS expects to deport almost 100,000 people this fiscal year, more than double the total three years ago.

1993

Criminal: 27,697

Non-Criminal: 14,602
Total Deportations: 42,299
* * *

1994
Criminal: 30,938
Non-Criminal: 14,396
Total Deportations: 45,334
* * *

1995
Criminal: 32,526
Non-Criminal: 17,888
Total Deportations: 50,414
* * *

1996
Criminal: 36,909
Non-Criminal: 31,748
Total Deportations: 68,657
* * *

1997*
Criminal: 23,290
Non-Criminal: 19,136
Total Deportations: 93,000
Projected: 50,574
* * *

* As of March 31, 1997
Source: Immigration and Naturalization Service

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File

Immigration

Deportation #s

Deportation of Criminals, INS Fugitives Hits Record

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By PATRICK J. McDONNELL
TIMES STAFF WRITER

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☐ Criminal ☐ Non-Criminal ☐ Projected

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Los Angeles Times

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26

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At Wallens Ridge and Red Onion, the only work will be janitorial, and educational programs will be limited to obtaining a General Educational Development diploma. There will be no classrooms; general-population prisoners will watch instructors on five-inch TV screens while alone in their cells.

"What do we expect when these prisoners get out if there is no effort at rehabilitation and we just isolate them and encourage their antisocial tendencies?" Gainsborough asked.

But in Virginia, society's interest in rehabilitation will be moot for many super-maximum prisoners. Because of their sentences, many will likely die in prison.

Since the state abolished parole, prisoners can earn no more than a 15 percent reduction of their sentences through good behavior; previously, through parole and time off for good behavior, violent felons could serve as little as one-sixth of their sentences, state officials said.

The current prison-building program will result in an additional 7,600 beds.

Also under construction are a women's prison in Fluvanna County; two maximum-security prisons in Sussex County, one of which will house a new Death Row; and Virginia's first private prison, in Brunswick County. The state is about to sign a contract for a second private prison, Angelone said.

Angelone said the construction makes good on the promise by the administration of Gov. George Allen (R) to have truth in sentencing and keep felons behind bars.

"That's the mandate of the voters," he said.

king motor vehicle lists, credit records and other databases, while also interviewing relatives and neighbors and hitting workplaces. Computers have allowed teams of agents here to converge on fugitives from deportation in specific ZIP codes, thus saving travel time.

"This is definitely a priority for us," said Leonard Kovensky, the INS deportation chief in Los Angeles, whose previous INS postings in Athens and Moscow involved quite different tasks: processing refugees for entry into the United States.

Frequently, agents with deportation warrants encounter families with mixed immigration statuses, typically cases like that of the Chong family: undocumented parents with U.S.-citizen children. Parents in that predicament are given the option of leaving their offspring behind with relatives or loved ones.

"It can be very wrenching," Kovensky said. "It's a tough choice to have to give somebody. But it's our responsibility to enforce the law."

Also being swept up in the widening dragnet are increasing numbers of legal immigrants who are subject to deportation because of criminal pasts. The new immigration law passed by Congress last year greatly widened the kinds of criminal activity that render legal immigrant noncitizens subject to "removal," as deportation is now known, including spousal abuse and many categories of theft and document fraud.

"I never thought this would happen to me," said a stunned Johnny Constantin, a 29-year-old Romanian legal immigrant who was in deportation proceedings in Los

Angeles last week after INS agents plucked him from jail because of a previous conviction for methamphetamine possession.

As a criminal, Constantin is the INS's stated first priority for arrest and deportation. In stark contrast to just a few years ago, INS agents are now regularly checking jails and prisons, attempting to ensure that deportable lawbreakers do not walk free once their criminal sentences are served.

Today, an INS team maintains a 24-hour presence at the Los Angeles County Jail, where about 5,000 inmates have been arrested and put into expulsion proceedings since last October. In some cases, immigration judges are even hearing prison inmates' cases while they complete their sentences, thus assuring speedy expulsion once their time is completed.

According to the INS, about 55% of the 42,426 people deported nationwide in the first six months of fiscal 1997 had criminal records. The Clinton administration, constantly assailed by Republicans as soft on illegal immigration, has

touted the escalating deportation numbers.

"Each time INS removes one of those criminal aliens, we take another dangerous person off the streets and out of our communities," said David Martin, INS general counsel.

The accelerated deportation campaign is also netting large numbers of so-called "incidental" arrests. Typically, these are illegal immigrants who have the bad luck to be living in homes targeted for raids because former occupants have deportation warrants pending against them.

"I'm just glad my kids never saw this happening to me," said Ramon Campusano, a 29-year-old illegal immigrant from Mexico arrested at his family's Los Angeles apartment at 6:30 a.m., as his two U.S.-born children slept.

A restaurant chef, Campusano said he had lived here 13 years without incident until INS agents knocked at his door. He admitted that he would probably attempt to return once he was sent to Mexico.

But deportees now risk prison

terms of up to 10 years if they return to the United States illegally and are recaptured.

In coming months and years, the number of people facing deportation is expected to grow dramatically—as is the likelihood that they will be apprehended if they do not surrender.

Fidelia Flores, a 41-year-old travel agent from the Philippines, knows her time may be running out.

Flores, who has been fighting deportation for a dozen years, contends that it would cause great hardship to her U.S.-born son and daughter and to her husband, a naturalized U.S. citizen. Her deportation is currently stayed while the U.S. Court of Appeals decides whether it even has authority under the new law to review her case and many others like it, said her attorney, Carl Shusterman of Los Angeles.

"My life is here with my family, not in the Philippines," Flores said during an interview at her attorney's office. "If I'm deported, what will happen to my family?"

Deportation Much Less Common Than Expulsion

Deportation is the enforcement activity most closely associated with the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

But deportation—usually after a final order by an immigration judge—is far from the most frequently used method.

The vast majority of people expelled by the INS do not go through formal proceedings. Most never have their day in court. There simply wouldn't be enough agents, immigration judges or detention spaces.

During the 1996 fiscal year, the INS recorded a near-record 1.6 million arrests of suspected illegal immigrants, the great bulk of them from Mexico. That huge volume makes the INS the nation's most prolific arresting agency.

Of those, however, only 68,657 were formally deported. Officials say that about an equal number of illegal immigrants were expelled from the United States interior after agreeing to leave without formal orders of deportation.

But the vast majority of expulsions—more than 1.5 million—involved illegal immigrants arrested by Border Patrol agents in the U.S.-Mexico border area and quickly returned to Mexico. All were considered "voluntary returns"—that is, those who left signed forms agreeing to be sent home without hearings. Once back, many just turned around in Tijuana or other points and attempted to cross again—the oft-lamented "revolving door" that has long characterized the Southwest border.

Since April 1, thousands of foreign nationals arriving at airports, land border and other ports of entry without proper documents have faced a new barrier: "expedited removal." Unless they present a "credible fear" of persecution in their homeland, they have virtually no right to argue their case before a judge. Many have been sent back home on the next plane.

—PATRICK J.
McDONNELL