

MAN COULD PAY UP TO \$6.25M FOR ALIEN WORKER FRAUD

The Latest News
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A man pled guilty in a Fort Lauderdale courtroom to faking visas for alien workers, the government said, adding the man's maximum penalty could be up to 245 years in prison and fines of up to \$6.25 million.

The U.S. District Attorney said Rejean LeDuc pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to make false statements and submitting false petitions for nonimmigrant alien workers visas to the Immigration and Naturalization Service, U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Labor from 1999 through March 2003. LeDuc also pled guilty to 24 substantive counts of causing fraudulent petitions for nonimmigration worker alien visas to be submitted to the U.S. Department of State.

The government said he faces a maximum sentence of up to 5 years in prison on the conspiracy charge and a fine of up to \$250,000. LeDuc also faces up to 10 years in prison for each charge of submitting fraudulent petitions and a fine of up to \$250,000 on each count.

Sentencing is scheduled for Nov. 21 at 11:30 a.m., the government said.

The indictment charges LeDuc was part of a scheme to fraudulently provide petitions for nonimmigrant alien workers to come to work legally in the United States. The indictment alleges LeDuc provided false background information on behalf of each alien in the petitions, such as false college diplomas, false tax returns, false leases, false resumes, and false letters from a foreign corporation promoting the alien to work in the United States.

The indictment alleges LeDuc charged each alien from \$1,500 to \$5,000 for each petition.

"While the indictment charges LeDuc with the fraudulent preparation of over 25 alien worker petitions during the period January 1999 through March 2003, the investigation known as 'Operation Open Door' has determined LeDuc is responsible for over 100 aliens filing false petitions and obtaining U.S. visas through this fraud," the U.S. Attorney's office said.

Investigators on the case included the State Department's diplomatic security service, the U.S. Department of Labor's office of labor racketeering and fraud investigators, the Broward Sheriff's Office and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Canadian Consulate in Miami assisted and cooperated with the investigation.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeffrey H. Kay of the U.S. Attorney's Fort Lauderdale office is prosecuting the case.

