

## **Immigration Raid at California Factory Leads to 43 Arrests**

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In a sharp departure from the Obama Administration's immigration enforcement policy favoring audits over raids, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raided the Terra Universal plant in Fullerton, California, and detained 43 employees. The raid caused the plant, which employs about 230 people and manufactures equipment for semiconductor and pharmaceutical manufacturers, to be shut down for one day.

According to the search warrant, ICE agents were looking for documents related to the work authorizations for its employees - job applications, employment verification forms, immigration documents and correspondence from the Social Security Administration regarding the use of Social Security numbers that didn't match the employees' names. In addition, agents were searching for documents related to the company's reporting of wages and taxes paid and documents that showed any cash payments to employees.

Worksite enforcement has been a key part of President Obama's immigration policy. The administration has conducted hundreds of workplace audits and arrested dozens of employers. The chief of ICE, John Morton, has said the agency is focusing on companies that have some link to national security and on employers who are knowingly hiring illegal workers and committing other crimes, such as extorting employees, failing to pay minimum wage or harboring illegal immigrants.