


[Help](#)

Basic

Advanced

Topics

Publications

My Research

[0 marked items](#)

Interface language:

English

[Databases selected:](#) Multiple databases...

Document View
[« Back to Results](#)
[< Previous](#) Document 5 of 5

[Publisher Information](#)

Print

Email

 Mark Document

 [Abstract](#) , Full Text

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Georgia migrant workers face harsh reality Voiceless victims: Illegal immigrants, unaware of their rights and afraid to complain even when not paid, are easy targets for the unscrupulous, the INS and advocates say.

[Elizabeth Kurylo STAFF WRITER](#). [The Atlanta Constitution](#). Atlanta, Ga.: [Jul 22, 1997](#). pg. E.02

[» Jump to full text](#)
[» Translate document into:](#)
[» More Like This](#) - Find similar documents

Subjects: [Aliens](#), [Employment](#), [Foreign labor](#), [Migration](#), [Work environment](#)

Locations: [Georgia](#)

Author(s): [Elizabeth Kurylo STAFF WRITER](#)

Document types: News

Section: STATE NEWS

Publication title: [The Atlanta Constitution](#). Atlanta, Ga.: [Jul 22, 1997](#). pg. E.02

Source type: Newspaper

ProQuest document ID: 13120274

Text Word Count 470

Document URL: <http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?did=13120274&sid=19&Fmt=3&clientId=15482&RQT=309&VName=PQD>

Abstract (Document Summary)

Immigrants in metro Atlanta and across Georgia are subject to the kind of abuse faced by Mexican deaf-mutes who were held in virtual slavery in New York, a local immigration official said Monday.

Hispanic migrant workers in Georgia sometimes "are almost like indentured servants," said Thomas Fischer, district director of the Atlanta office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. "It's an operation where the boss provides the housing and the company store. It's almost bondage and it's difficult to escape," he said.

Full Text (470 words)

(Copyright 1997 The Atlanta Journal / The Atlanta Constitution)

This article appeared in both The Atlanta Journal and The Atlanta Constitution.

Immigrants in metro Atlanta and across Georgia are subject to the kind of abuse faced by Mexican deaf-mutes who were held in virtual slavery in New York, a local immigration official said Monday.

Hispanic migrant workers in Georgia sometimes "are almost like indentured servants," said Thomas Fischer, district director of the Atlanta office of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. "It's an operation where the boss provides the housing and the company store. It's almost bondage and it's difficult to escape," he said.

Concerns about treatment of immigrants surfaced over the weekend after New York authorities said more than 60 Mexicans, most deaf-mutes, were held in squalid conditions and forced to beg for money on subways to pay off smugglers who brought them to the United States.

In Atlanta, Mexican Consul General Teodoro Maus said he gets one or two complaints a week about poor working conditions for immigrants at construction sites, poultry plants, farms and other small businesses. "It's gotten so bad, and any immigrant is vulnerable," he said, adding that even legal immigrants can be exploited. "People want them to work, but they don't want to pay them."

Fischer said the INS also is investigating an Asian prostitution ring that smuggles teenage girls through Hartsfield International Airport and onto metro

Atlanta's streets. The smugglers "take their money, promising work," he said. "But the women are duped. They get here and there's very little food. They don't get anything out of it."

Metro Atlanta is home to more than 300,000 immigrants, according to Georgia State University's Center for Applied Research in Anthropology, which studies ethnic groups. CARA's estimates, based on Census figures and other data, include about 100,000 Mexicans in the metro area.

Those with limited English are vulnerable because they don't understand their rights at work, said Maritza Keen, executive director of Atlanta's Latin American Association. Illegal immigrants rarely complain, so it's easier for employers to take advantage of them, she said.

"I haven't heard of that extreme of a case, like the one in New York, but in some parts of Georgia, where they are working on farms, I can pretty much guarantee that it happens," Keen said. "We know of migrant workers who have lived out of their cars."

At metro Atlanta construction sites, some Hispanics end up working for free because their bosses don't pay them and the immigrants are afraid to complain. Pilar Verdes, a reporter for the Atlanta-based bilingual weekly Mundo Hispanico, wrote in April about 31 Hispanics who didn't get paid after working two weeks at an Atlanta hotel construction site. Most were here illegally, she said, "but even if they have papers, they don't know what to do. The system is so complex," she said.

"That's slavery," she added.

More Like This - Find similar documents

Subjects: Aliens Employment Foreign labor Migration Work environment

Locations: Georgia

Author(s): Elizabeth Kurylo STAFF WRITER

Document types: News

Language: English

Publication title: The Atlanta Constitution

[^ Back to Top](#)

[<< Back to Results](#)

[< Previous](#) Document 5 of 5

[Publisher Information](#)

Mark Document

,

Copyright © 2006 ProQuest Information and Learning Company. All rights reserved. [Terms and Conditions](#)

[Text-only interface](#)

ProQuest
COMPANY