



Written by [R. Cort Kirkwood](#) on August 21, 2025

Naturalized Citizens Indicted for Smuggling, Harboring Illegals in Albuquerque

In a remarkable show of gratitude for the nation that took them in, two naturalized foreigners joined a conspiracy to import illegal aliens, a federal indictment alleges.

The grand jury in the U.S. district of New Mexico indicted Nan Zhang, 44, and her husband, Sanjay Khurana, 62, on August 12 for their major role in the conspiracy, which includes the charge of harboring illegals.

An immigrant from China, Zhang was a former police cadet in Albuquerque who sued for discrimination when she quit the police academy, a television station reported. The Justice Department did not report Khurana's country of origin, but the name [is Indian](#).



Sean Pavone/iStock/Getty Images Plus
Albuquerque, New Mexico

An Albuquerque couple is accused of conspiring with human smugglers, turning their rental properties into stash houses for human smuggling operations, and laundering what they believed to be human smuggling profits through a real estate deal structured to avoid detection.

... pic.twitter.com/GFZXGUYcAq

— U.S. Attorney NM (@USAO_NM) [August 14, 2025](#)

The Indictment

The [three-count indictment alleges](#) that the couple “conspired with human smugglers to rent properties in Albuquerque to be used as stash houses for individuals who had been unlawfully brought into the United States” between March 2023 and July 2025.

The pair ran four such stash houses, and “charged inflated rents” to house the illegals, “warned co-conspirators of law enforcement activity, and continued leasing apartments to human smugglers even after law enforcement discovered undocumented individuals at the properties.”

Such was the criminality that when cops responded to a shooting, they found 12 illegals in one of the stash houses, the [indictment alleges](#).

And bringing and harboring illegals wasn't the only crime the pair committed, the indictment alleges.

The pair also “conspired to launder money they believed to be proceeds of human smuggling. According to court documents, they offered to sell real estate for large cash payments while structuring the deals to avoid financial reporting requirements, including offering to use a third-party name and falsify sale



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records,” the [DOJ summary](#) of the indictment says.

The two naturalized citizens face charges of “conspiracy [to harbor](#) illegal aliens, conspiracy [to commit](#) money laundering, and conducting unlawful financial transactions.”

A conviction could end in 20 years in prison and forfeiting the properties.

Flunked Out of Police Training

Not surprisingly, Madame Zhang has something of a troubled past, [KOAT7 reported](#). She wanted to become a cop but was forced to quit the police academy.

“So my ultimate goal [was to] become [Albuquerque] police officer,” [Zhang told](#) the station in 2021. “It’s [to] protect my community.”

In her ongoing lawsuit, she claims she suffered “abuse, discrimination and was given the nickname ‘Cadet COVID.’”

Former APD cadet charged in connection with human smuggling in Albuquerque | Click on the image to read the full story <https://t.co/aDdxurMrV3>

— KOAT.com (@koat7news) [August 15, 2025](#)

“People kept telling me that you don’t belong here,” [Zhang told](#) the station:

They tell me these things every day. This is harassment. I mean, it’s just because of my age, my language and my race.

Of course, the station reported, President Joe Biden’s DOJ “reached out to Zhang’s attorney.”

The station reported that Zhang passed the ABP’s tests with “flying colors.” Three top cops wanted her to become a cadet.

Alas and alack, she was forced out of the academy after weeks of “abuse.” That included “everyone ... telling her they couldn’t understand her English,” the [station reported](#).

Her attorney in the case is a former cop who became a lawyer. Whether he will defend the Chinese immigrant the station didn’t say.

Zhang landed in the United States about 20 years ago. Having failed at becoming a cop, she took up a life of crime, federal prosecutors allege. Maybe she thought smuggling and harboring illegals was part of her gig to “protect my community.”

The station did not report what will become of her lawsuit against the police department.



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