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Article's Subject Matter:

Article from US Dept Homeland Security advising of a suspect who switched his left index and right ring fingerprints (by grafting in Russia), and was subsequently caught and admitted to the change, at JFK Airport in New York.

Key Points in Article

- Fingerprints can be grafted
- The work done was very good with little scarring
- Taking more than one fingerprint from an individual, or by searching more than one would lead to an arrest in any case of this nature

Fallacies and Issues

- Members should be aware that this exists
- That suspects with financial capability can do this procedure
- No photos of the edges of the graft are shown as it would be interesting to see how the scarring would record on a full nail-bed to nail-bed rolled impression.

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Subject: The Detail # 478

Good Morning!

via THE WEEKLY DETAIL

Monday, November 15, 2010

The purpose of the Detail is to help keep you informed of the current state of affairs in the latent print community, to provide an avenue to circulate original fingerprint-related articles, and to announce important events as they happen in our field.

THIS WEEK

we look at an interesting fingerprint mutilation out of Russia, submitted by Laura Tierney.

In September 2010, an individual arrived at JFK Airport on an inbound flight from Russia. A routine check of fingerprint records resulted in a Watch List hit in US-VISIT. (US-VISIT is the DHS database for individuals entering and exiting the United States). An examination of the Watch List hit revealed that the subject was a possible match to multiple fingerprint records including one for prior deported aggravated felon.

During a subsequent interview, the subject admitted to the prior aggravated felon deportation. The subject stated that, after deportation, he went to a professional surgeon in Russia and requested grafting surgery in order to transplant the friction ridge skin from his Right Ring Finger to his Left Index Finger and vice versa. The subject further stated that he did this for the explicit purpose of avoiding detection.

Attached are scans of the subject's before and after fingerprint records. Note that no scars are visible in the prints. In addition, there is a close-up photo of the altered Right Ring Finger. Note how subtle the scarring is.

All images are at: <http://www.clpex.com/Information/Russia-Mutilation/RussianFingerprintMutilation.htm>



