

## FEDERAL SEX TRAFFICKING CASES IN THE UNITED STATES 2000-2008

The following compilation offers a partial list of sex trafficking cases prosecuted in the United States. Although this list is not exhaustive, it is intended to offer an overview of a variety of cases that have been prosecuted over the last decade. These cases have been compiled directly from a number of sources including the United States Department of Justice [www.usdoj.gov](http://www.usdoj.gov), the Center for Women Policy Studies U.S. Policy Advocacy to Combat Trafficking (PACT) [www.centerwomenpolicy.org](http://www.centerwomenpolicy.org), and additional contributions from Polaris Project's National office. The individual source is listed beneath each case.

**For more information, please contact The National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) at 1-888-3737-888.**

### **NOTE ON THE PROSECUTION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASES**

It is extremely significant to note that not all cases of human trafficking are prosecuted using trafficking statutes. On a case by case basis, prosecutors consider several factors in determining what charges to bring, including the specific situation, victim status, the condition of available witness(es), and applicable laws to formulate the best approach for successful conviction. In a number of instances, although the crime of "severe forms" of human trafficking occurred, it is prosecuted through other crimes committed.

### **LEGISLATION FOR PROSECUTION OF SEX TRAFFICKING CRIMES**

This is an overview of the related statutes to exemplify a few of the many ways sex trafficking cases can sometimes be prosecuted at a Federal level. While this list is not exhaustive, it can provide a better understanding of the conviction process and methods.

**Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000:** The TVPA legally defines severe forms of sex trafficking as "sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such an act has not attained 18 years of age." (Public Law 106-386)

Source: United States. Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000. 106th Congress. 28 October 2000.

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/10492.pdf>

- **Involuntary Servitude:** to hold a person in a condition of slavery, that is, a condition of compulsory service or labor against his/her will. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 supplemented this existing law 18 U.S.C. § 1584.
  - Source: United States 18 U.S.C. § 1584 "Involuntary Servitude".
  - <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/1581fin.php>
- **Sex Trafficking of Children OR by Force, Fraud, or Coercion**
  - Source: United States 18 USC § 1591 "Sex Trafficking of Children OR by Force, Fraud, or Coercion".
  - 106<sup>th</sup> Congress. 28 October 2000. <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/10492.pdf>
  - [http://www.ojp.gov/smart/pdfs/18\\_usc\\_index.pdf](http://www.ojp.gov/smart/pdfs/18_usc_index.pdf)
- **Unlawful Conduct with Respect to Documents in Furtherance of Trafficking, Peonage, Slavery, Involuntary Servitude, or Forced Labor:** to seize, destroy, or conceal false or official documents in order to force others to work 18 U.S.C. § 1592.
  - Source: United States 18 U.S.C. § 1592 "Unlawful Conduct with Respect to Documents in Furtherance of Trafficking, Peonage, Involuntary Servitude, or Forced Labor".
  - 106<sup>th</sup> Congress. 28 October 2000. <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/10492.pdf>
- **Unlawful Employment of Aliens**
  - Source: United States 8 USC § 1324 "Unlawful Employment of Aliens".
  - <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/osc/ref/8usc1324a.htm>

This publication was made possible in part through Grant Number 90XR0012/02 from the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division, Office of Refugee Resettlement, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division, Office of Refugee Resettlement, or HHS.

- **Importing Aliens for Immoral Purposes:** to import aliens for prostitution; to hold aliens for prostitution; to keep, maintain, control, support, employ, or harbor aliens for prostitution 8 U.S.C. § 1328.
  - Source: *United States* 8 U.S.C. § 1328 "Importing Aliens for Immoral Purposes".
  - [http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/eousa/foia\\_reading\\_room/usam/title9/crm01914.htm](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/eousa/foia_reading_room/usam/title9/crm01914.htm)

#### Mann Act

- [http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/eousa/foia\\_reading\\_room/usam/title9/79mcrm.htm#9-79.100](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/eousa/foia_reading_room/usam/title9/79mcrm.htm#9-79.100)
- [http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/eousa/foia\\_reading\\_room/usam/title9/crm02027.htm](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/eousa/foia_reading_room/usam/title9/crm02027.htm)
- **Transportation for Illegal Sexual Activity and Related Crimes 18 U.S.C. § 2421:** to transport any individual in interstate or foreign commerce for the purpose of engaging in prostitution or other sexual activity for which any person can be charged with a criminal offense, and related crimes
  - Source: *United States* 18 U.S.C. § 2421 "Transportation for Illegal Sexual Activity and Related Crimes".
  - [http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/eousa/foia\\_reading\\_room/usam/title9/75mcrm.htm#9-75.300](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/eousa/foia_reading_room/usam/title9/75mcrm.htm#9-75.300)
  - [http://miami.fbi.gov/statutes/title\\_18/section2421.htm](http://miami.fbi.gov/statutes/title_18/section2421.htm)
  - [http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/uscode18/usc\\_sec\\_18\\_00002421----000-.html](http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/uscode18/usc_sec_18_00002421----000-.html)
- **Coercion and Enticement 18 U.S.C. § 2422:** to knowingly persuade, induce, entice, or coerce and individual to travel in interstate or foreign commerce with the purpose of engaging in prostitution or any criminal sexual activity, or attempting to do so; if the individual who has been persuaded, induced, enticed, or coerced to engage in prostitution or other criminal sexual act is under the age of 18, then the penalty is 15 years imprisonment and/or a fine.
  - Source: *United States* 18 U.S.C. § 2422 "Coercion and Enticement".
  - [http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/eousa/foia\\_reading\\_room/usam/title9/crm02001.htm](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/eousa/foia_reading_room/usam/title9/crm02001.htm)
  - [http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/uscode18/usc\\_sec\\_18\\_00002422----000-.html](http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/uscode18/usc_sec_18_00002422----000-.html)
- **Transportation of Minors 18 U.S.C. § 2423:** to transport a person (under the age of 18 years) in interstate or foreign commerce with the intent to engage in criminal sexual activity; to engage in illicit sexual conduct; to engage in sexual conduct in foreign places; and ancillary offenses.
  - Source: *United States* 18 U.S.C. § 2423 "Transportation of Minors".
  - [http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/eousa/foia\\_reading\\_room/usam/title9/crm02002.htm](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/eousa/foia_reading_room/usam/title9/crm02002.htm)
  - <http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/18/2423.html>

#### RICO Statute

- [http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/eousa/foia\\_reading\\_room/usam/title9/110mcrm.htm](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/eousa/foia_reading_room/usam/title9/110mcrm.htm)
- [http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/eousa/foia\\_reading\\_room/usam/title9/crm00956.htm](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/eousa/foia_reading_room/usam/title9/crm00956.htm)
- [http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/18/usc\\_sup\\_01\\_18\\_10\\_1\\_20\\_96.html](http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/18/usc_sup_01_18_10_1_20_96.html)
- **Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) 18 U.S.C. §§ 1961-1968:** to act or threat with murder, kidnapping, gambling, arson, robbery, bribery, extortion, dealing in an obscene matter, or dealing a controlled substance or listed chemical.
  - Source: *United States* 18 U.S.C. §§ 1961-1968 "Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations".



## 2008

### Sex Trafficking Cases Involving Adults (2008)

**Officials Raid ‘Happy Ending’ Massage** (Richmond): Sunshine Spa and Apple Studies were among 19 parlors raided Tuesday in Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio. Police detained four women in Richmond—two legal U.S. residents and two illegal immigrants. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials took both illegal and legal immigrants to Lawrenceburg for further investigation. “Prostitution charges, while serious, did not address the larger issue, which was human trafficking,” Lt. Brad Berner said. “That was our concern through all of this”. Berner said the federal government had long suspected the parlors were bringing women from Korea illegally and forcing them to perform sex acts to earn their way into the country. Police coordinated a task force with other local and federal agencies to shut down the ring of massage parlors in Richmond, Lawrenceburg, New Albany, northern Kentucky, Cincinnati, and Indianapolis.

<http://www.newslinkindiana.com/index.php?src=news&refno=1868&category=Top%20Story>

### Sex Trafficking Cases Involving Minors (2008)

**New York City Police Detective and His Girlfriend Accused of Kidnapping and Forcing a 13-year-old girl into Prostitution** (New York City, February 2008): Detective, Wayne Taylor, and the girlfriend, Zalika Brown, would parade the girl at parties and other places where adult men had gathered and force her to have sex with them for money--\$40 for oral sex, \$80 for intercourse. Legislative passage was thwarted in large part because prosecutors made the case that it was necessary to hold the threat of jail over the heads of these children as a way of coercing them to testify against pimps.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2008/02/19/opinion/19herbert.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/02/19/opinion/19herbert.html?_r=1)

### **Man Pleads Guilty to Conspiracy to Engage in Sex Trafficking and Transporting Illegal Aliens In Los Angeles**

(California): Pablo Bonifacio pleaded guilty in federal court in Los Angeles to conspiracy to commit sex trafficking and transporting illegal aliens in the pending case of *U.S. v. Vasquez-Valenzuela*. The remaining 8 defendants are scheduled for trial on September 2, 2008 in Los Angeles. During the plea today, Bonifacio admitted to conspiring with multiple co-defendants and others in a scheme to bring young Guatemalan women and girls into the United States illegally for purposes of prostitution, and to hold and harbor them in the Los Angeles area for the same purposes. As he admitted during the plea hearing today, Bonifacio was paid for his role in transporting young females to different locations within the Los Angeles area to engage in prostitution. In addition, the defendant acknowledged that co-defendants arranged for young females to be recruited from Guatemala—often on the promise of legitimate jobs—and were then smuggled into the United States illegally for prostitution. The young women and girls were then forced to engage in prostitution to repay their smuggling fees. [http://www.usdoj.gov/opa/pr/2008/May/08\\_crt\\_396.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/opa/pr/2008/May/08_crt_396.html)

**Hartford Man Sentenced for Role in Trafficking Ring** (Connecticut): The Justice Department announced today that Brian Forbes of Hartford, Conn., was sentenced today to 156 months in prison for his involvement in a sex trafficking ring that victimized minor girls and coerced young women to engage in commercial sex acts against their will. Forbes was also ordered to serve 3 years of supervised release and to pay \$16,339 in restitution to his victims. Forbes was charged in a 64-count superseding indictment, along with nine other co-defendants, on Aug. 8, 2006. Mr. Forbes pleaded guilty on March 4, 2007, to three counts of sex trafficking of minors, two counts of sex trafficking adult women (through force, fraud, or coercion) and one count of conspiracy to use interstate facilities to promote prostitution.

<http://newhaven.fbi.gov/dojpressrel/2008/nh040708.htm>



## 2007

### Sex Trafficking Cases Involving Adults (2007)

**United States v. Paris, et al.** (Connecticut): Ten defendants were convicted for their roles in operating a prostitution business in the Hartford, Connecticut, area in which they prostituted U.S. citizen victims. Three of these defendants were charged with prostituting juveniles and using force and coercion to compel adult women into prostitution. The defendants sought to conceal their prostitution businesses by calling them "escort services" that were advertised in area newspapers and telephone book yellow pages. The scheme also included operation of a bail bond business in which the victims were required to work off their bond through prostitution and the sale of the women from one defendant to another for \$1200 each. Nine defendants have been sentenced in this case to terms of imprisonment ranging from one year to 13 years. The tenth defendant, who was convicted at trial, awaits sentencing and faces up to life imprisonment.  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2007/agreporhumantrafficking2007.pdf> (see page 64)

**Former Wrestler Sentenced on Trafficking Charges** (Georgia): Former professional wrestler Harrison Norris Jr., 42, a/k/a "Hardbody Harrison," from Cartersville, Ga., was sentenced today to life in prison and lifetime supervised release for committing multiple violations of federal sex trafficking and forced labor statutes in connection with a scheme to force women into prostitution. He was also sentenced to pay a \$2,400 special assessment.  
[http://www.usdoj.gov/opa/pr/2008/April/08\\_crt\\_259.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/opa/pr/2008/April/08_crt_259.html)

**United States v. Valenzuela, et al.** (California): Seven defendants were charged with federal offenses related to their operation of a sex trafficking ring that recruited young women in Guatemala with false promises of high-paying jobs, smuggled the victims into the United States and forced them to engage in prostitution to pay smuggling fees. In addition to guarding victims to prevent their escape, the defendants allegedly used threats and sometimes beatings to coerce and force the victims into commercial sex. Furthermore there were instances in which the leaders of the conspiracy helped each other by selling a victim to another defendant who could better control her and by jointly beating a victim who had tried to run away.  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2007/agreporhumantrafficking2007.pdf> (see page 64)

**United States v. Jones** (Georgia): Defendant Jimmie Lee Jones pled guilty to sex trafficking U.S. citizen women and girls and was sentenced to 15 years in prison. Jones lured young women and girls into prostitution through promises that he would help them find jobs as models. Jones used a scheme of increasingly sexualized activities, such as explicit photographs and striptease performances of clubs, and physical force, to compel the victims to engage in commercial sex acts.  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2007/agreporhumantrafficking2007.pdf> (see page 65)

**United States v. Kuo, et al.** (American Samoa) and **United States v. Uiagalelei**: Four defendants pled guilty to using restraints and threats of force to cause two 24-year-old victims to engage in commercial sex acts at a nightclub in Pago Pago. One additional defendant, an American Samoan official, pleaded guilty to using intimidation and threats to persuade witnesses to provide false testimony during the human trafficking investigation. All defendants were sentenced to terms of incarceration ranging from 11 to 63 months.  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2007/agreporhumantrafficking2007.pdf> (see page 66)

**United States v. Sun** (NMI): The defendant transported the victim from China with promises of a job as a waitress at her karaoke bar, earning \$700 per month. Upon arrival in Saipan, the defendant informed the victim that she would be performing acts of prostitution. The victim begged the defendant to let her go home but the defendant refused her requests. The defendant was convicted at trial of conspiracy to commit foreign transportation for prostitution and foreign transportation of a person in execution of a fraud scheme.  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2007/agreporhumantrafficking2007.pdf> (see page 66)



**Sex Trafficking Cases Involving Minors (2007)**

**United States v. Andres-Perfecto and United States vs. Mendez, et al.** (Tennessee): Twelve defendants were charged for their role in an operation that used force, fraud and coercion to compel a 13 year old girl and an adult woman to engage in commercial sex acts. The defendants were also charged with conspiring to launder money and conspiring to harbor illegal aliens relating to the operation of a brothel in Memphis. Two of the defendants recruited a 13-year-old girl in Mexico to come to Tennessee to work as a waitress. Once in Tennessee, those two defendants used force and sexual assaults to coerce the juvenile and the woman to engage in prostitution in brothels run by the other defendants. Eleven defendants entered guilty pleas for their involvement in this scheme. Eight of the eleven defendants were sentenced to incarceration ranging from 7 months to 60 months. Two defendants are fugitives.  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2007/agreporhumantrafficking2007.pdf> (see page 65)

**United States v. Perez-Laguna, et al.** (South Carolina): Three defendants were charged with organizing and operating a sex trafficking ring that smuggled Mexican women and girls, including at least one 14-year-old minor, into the United States and forced them into prostitution. Two of the three defendants entered guilty pleas for their involvement in the scheme and one is a fugitive.  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2007/agreporhumantrafficking2007.pdf> (see page 65)

**United States v. Ramirez** (Maryland): One defendant was charged with sex trafficking by force, fraud and coercion and harboring an alien. The defendant allegedly provided the juvenile victim, a 15-year-old Mexican national, to men for the purpose of prostitution.  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2007/agreporhumantrafficking2007.pdf> (see page 66)

**United States v. Davis and McKenzie** (Connecticut): Two defendants were charged with conspiring to transport two teen-aged minor victims between New York and Connecticut and forcing them to engage in stripping and to engage in acts of prostitution at various bars. The defendants maintained complete control over the girls, monitoring their every movement and beating them if they did not earn a sufficient amount of money each night. One defendant pleaded guilty to sex trafficking using fraud, force, and coercion to compel the victims to commit commercial sex acts, from which he obtained the proceeds. As part of his plea agreement, the defendant agreed to forfeit \$489,000 in cash and assets, and to pay \$50,000 in restitution to his victims.  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2007/agreporhumantrafficking2007.pdf> (see page 67)

**United States v. Anthony Mark Bianchi** (2007): On August 3, 2007, a federal jury returned guilty verdicts on all counts against Anthony Mark Bianchi, including traveling in foreign commerce for the purpose of engaging in illicit sexual conduct (4 counts), engaging in illicit sexual conduct in a foreign place (3 counts), using a facility in foreign commerce to entice a minor to engage in sexual activity (2 counts) and conspiracy. This conviction was the culmination of an extensive investigation by ICE. Bianchi was charged with Child Sex Tourism violations under the Protect Act. Moldovan authorities arrested a Moldovan co-defendant with the assistance of the ICE Attaché Vienna. He was charged with trafficking in persons violations and is currently incarcerated in Moldova. On January 12, 2006, Bianchi was charged in a six count federal indictment with Child Sex Tourism violations. On May 4, 2006, Bianchi was charged in a superseding indictment with an additional 8 counts of Child Sex Tourism violations as a result of additional victims being identified. Ten of Bianchi's young victims came to the U.S. to share their story with an American jury. ICE Victim Witness Coordinators played a crucial role in fostering a secure and comfortable environment for these young men during their time in the United States.  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2007/agreporhumantrafficking2007.pdf> (see page 68)

**United States v. Hart, et al.** (Washington): Two defendants were charged with conspiring to transport a juvenile female between Washington, Oregon and California to engage in prostitution. The victim was



required to release nearly all of the money she earned to defendant Hart and the defendant allegedly abused the victim physically and mentally. In addition, a third defendant was charged with misprision of a felony for informing defendant Hart that law enforcement was searching for him and making false statements to a federal investigator in an attempt to conceal the whereabouts of the victim and defendant Hart.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2007/agreporthumantrafficking2007.pdf> (see page 69)

**United States v. Williams, et al.** (Massachusetts): In January 2007, two Massachusetts residents were sentenced for their roles in arranging to exploit a minor U.S. citizen in prostitution in several New England states. Robert Williams and Brooke Denman were sentenced for various crimes, including conspiring to transport an individual in interstate commerce to engage in prostitution, and sex trafficking of children. A third defendant, Dawn Young, was sentenced in November 2007, for her role in the conspiracy. Williams, Denman, and Young participated in a conspiracy between October 2000 and September 2002, where they used a minor for prostitution activities in Massachusetts, Maine, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire. Young and Williams took some or all of the minor's earnings from prostitution and helped her obtain false identification documents. The conspiracy also involved causing the minor, who was 13 to 15 years old during the crimes, to receive prostitution calls through Young, who operated an escort service.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2007/agreporthumantrafficking2007.pdf> (see page 69)

**United States v. Diaz** (Massachusetts): On April 27, 2007, Evelyn Diaz of Chelsea, Massachusetts, was sentenced in the District of Massachusetts to 9 years imprisonment, after pleading guilty to an indictment charging her with one count of conspiracy to engage in a child prostitution scheme, two counts of transportation of a minor to engage in prostitution, and three counts of sex trafficking of children. She was charged with her uncle, Victor Diaz, who assisted her and was tried separately for conspiracy. Victor Diaz was then convicted on February 4, 2008, following a jury trial, as the evidence established that Diaz conspired with Evelyn Diaz to entice and transport a minor U.S. citizen for a commercial sex act occurring between April 2004 and April 2005. Between approximately July of 2003 and May of 2005, Diaz operated a prostitution business, both out of her home in Chelsea and from another location in East Boston. She placed advertisements and pictures of those who were working for her, both adults and juveniles, in various print media and websites. She then received response calls from individuals soliciting sex acts, which were then performed by the various adults and juveniles who were working for her. Additionally, she traveled at times to other states for the purpose of having those individuals engage in commercial sex. Diaz would keep all or part of the money thus obtained. At various times from 2003 through 2005, three minors worked for her. For example, in July of 2003, Diaz transported two minor girls, ages 15 and 13 respectively, to New York City, where they stayed at a hotel paid for by Diaz and then engaged in prostitution she arranged.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2007/agreporthumantrafficking2007.pdf> (see page 70)

**United States v. Leoney, et al.** (Massachusetts): Six men -- Shaun Leoney, 26, of Dorchester, Massachusetts; Darryl Tavares, 24, of Revere, Massachusetts; Eddie Jones, 25, of Roxbury, Massachusetts; Rueben Porcher, 29, of Dorchester, Massachusetts; Aaron Brooks, 23, of Quincy, Massachusetts; and Trueheart Peeples, 30, of Portland, Maine -- were arrested and then indicted in the District of Massachusetts on May 16, 2007 for sex trafficking of children, transportation of minor U.S. citizens for the purpose of prostitution, and conspiracy. According to the indictment, between approximately February of 2001 and December of 2005, Leoney, Tavares, Jones, Porcher, Brooks, and Peeples conspired with each other to transport adults and minors between states for prostitution, assisting each other, and ultimately profiting from each other's endeavors. The defendants reportedly operated in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maine, and Massachusetts. The indictment also alleges that Leoney, Tavares, Jones, Porcher, and Peeples trafficked minors for the purpose of prostitution.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2007/agreporthumantrafficking2007.pdf> (see page 70)

**United States v. Doss, et al.** (California): On July 3, 2007, Juan Rico Doss of Reno, Nevada, received a mandatory life sentence pursuant to application of the federal recidivist statute, after a jury found him guilty



of two counts of sex trafficking of children, three counts of transporting minors into prostitution, one count of conspiracy to commit sex trafficking of children and transporting minor U.S. citizens into prostitution, and two counts of witness tampering. The charges arose from information that Doss prostituted two minor victims in both California and Reno, Nevada, during the first two weeks of May 2005. Doss, along with his wife/co-defendant, conspired to recruit a 14-year-old female and a 16-year-old female to work for Doss as prostitutes. Once recruited, Doss and his wife transported these victims to various locations in California for the purpose of prostitution. During this time, the money from the commercial sexual exploitation of these minors was provided to Doss and the minor victims worked exclusively for him. Doss's wife ultimately pleaded guilty and cooperated in the prosecution against him. Doss's appeal to the Ninth Circuit is pending. <http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2007/agreporhumantrafficking2007.pdf> (see page 71)

**United States v. Rudd** (California): William Newton Rudd, 64, who previously lived in Fullerton, California, was charged in a one-count indictment in the Central District of California on August 29, 2007 for traveling in foreign commerce and engaging in illicit sexual conduct with a minor. Rudd, a former contract employee for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), is accused of engaging in illicit sexual contact with a boy while working for USAID in Bangladesh. According to the indictment, he traveled from the United States to Bangladesh in 2003, and while working there, engaged in sexual contact with a Bangladeshi boy, who was 10 or 11 years old at the time, between approximately November 2003 and May 2004. The case is pending. <http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2007/agreporhumantrafficking2007.pdf> (see page 71)

**United States v. Webster** (Alaska): Don Arthur Webster, Jr., 49, of Anchorage, Alaska, a/k/a "Jerry Star," was indicted on November 5, 2006, in connection with his alleged operation of sham escort businesses that were fronts for prostitution in the Anchorage area. He reportedly recruited U.S. citizen women and teenagers who were homeless or in low paying jobs by enticing them with gifts of clothes and promises of opportunities to make money. He then invited them to live at one of several houses he maintained in the Anchorage area. Once they moved in, they were told that they were to go on "dates" for the escort service and provide all of their money to him. The dates involved the exchange of money for sex. He was indicted on multiple counts related to sex trafficking of children and Sex Trafficking Cases Involving Adults by force, fraud, or coercion, as well as numerous drug related offenses. Following a trial by jury, Webster was convicted on February 5, 2008 of 28 federal felonies: two counts of sex trafficking of a minor to engage in a commercial sex act, nine counts of Sex Trafficking Cases Involving Adults by force, fraud and coercion, two counts of distributing crack cocaine to a pregnant woman, eight counts of distribution of crack cocaine, and three other felony violations of the Controlled Substances Act. Webster is awaiting sentencing. <http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2007/agreporhumantrafficking2007.pdf> (see page 71)



## 2006

### Sex Trafficking Cases Involving Adults (2006)

**United States v. Grandt, et al. (New York):** Twenty-two defendants were charged with conspiring to identify, recruit, and transport women from Korea to the United States to make money to support their families. Once the women arrived in the United States, they were placed in one of numerous brothels in order to pay large financial debts owed to recruiters in Korea and to other members of the defendants' organization. The owner or manager of the brothel confiscated identification and travel documents from the women and threatened to turn the women into law enforcement and/or harm their families in Korea, should they leave the prostitution business before paying off their debts. Six defendants have pleaded guilty so far. <http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2006/agreporhumantrafficking2006.pdf> (see page 43)

**United States v. Kim, et al. (New York):** ICE agents in New York, working jointly with the FBI and NYPD, identified a criminal organization engaged in the smuggling and trafficking of undocumented South Korean women into the United States for the purpose of prostitution. In August 2006, 18 search warrants and 31 arrest warrants were executed at brothels throughout the northeast United States. Once the women arrived in the United States, they were placed in one of numerous brothels in order to pay large financial debts owed to recruiters in Korea and to other members of the defendants' organization. The owner or manager of the brothel confiscated identification and travel documents from the women and threatened to turn the women in to law enforcement and/or harm their families in Korea, should they leave the prostitution business before paying off their debts. Eleven defendants were charged with conspiracy to commit human smuggling, human trafficking, and Mann Act violations and all pled guilty. Four defendants were sentenced to prison terms of seven months (time served), 15 months, 27 months and 41 months, with the latter defendant also ordered to forfeit \$200,000. A fifth defendant received probation. Sentencing is pending on the remaining defendants. <http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2006/agreporhumantrafficking2006.pdf> (see page 43)

**United States v. Lopes and Mello (Massachusetts):** A Brazilian woman and man were charged with conspiring to profit from a prostitution business, which took advantage of Brazilian women who were in the United States illegally. The defendants allegedly recruited women for the business, advertised them through the Internet, and then directed the women to various locations throughout Massachusetts and neighboring states for prostitution. The defendants used various threats, including the threat of deportation, in order to keep the women from quitting. <http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2006/agreporhumantrafficking2006.pdf> (see page 44)

**United States v. Paris, et al. (Connecticut):** Ten defendants were charged in a 56-count indictment with operating a prostitution business in the Hartford, Connecticut, area in which they marketed young women to perform sexual acts with males in exchange for money. The defendants sought to conceal their prostitution businesses by calling them "escort services" and advertising in area newspapers and telephone book yellow pages. The scheme also included operation of a bail bond business in which the victims were required to work off their bond through prostitution and the sale of the women from one business to another for \$1200 each. Nine defendants entered guilty pleas. <http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2006/agreporhumantrafficking2006.pdf> (see page 44)

**United States v. Orozco and Santizo (Florida):** Two men were charged with trafficking with respect to forced labor after smuggling two female victims, including a 14-year-old girl, from Mexico through Arizona, and then to Ft. Myers, Florida. Once in Florida, the women were sold and told they would not be working in the fruit fields as expected, but instead had to work as prostitutes to pay off a \$2,700 debt. One defendant entered a guilty plea to alien smuggling and was sentenced to nine months in prison. <http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2006/agreporhumantrafficking2006.pdf> (see page 44)





**United States v. Mondragon, et al (Texas):** Six of eight defendants have pleaded guilty in a conspiracy where women were trafficked into the United States from Honduras and El Salvador and forced to work in bars in Houston, Texas. The defendants threatened to harm the women and their families if they tried to escape or stop working in the bar. They also used the immigration courts to control the victims by telling the women to report to immigration authorities and then confiscating legal documents denying them access to the court, resulting in deportation orders they could hold over them. The women were charged smuggling fees ranging from \$6,000 to \$14,000, that were increased by extending credit to the women and girls for housing, food, clothing, transportation, and money sent home to their families. The women were expected to reduce their debts by keeping company with male bar patrons, and encouraging them to buy beer and liquor at high prices, and to submit to sexual contact with the patrons. Almost 90 victims have been identified and are receiving assistance.  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2006/agreporhumantrafficking2006.pdf> (see page 45)

**United States v. Malcolm (Texas):** Korean madam Mi Na Malcolm was sentenced to ten years in prison after pleading guilty for her role in the ownership and operation of three Korean brothels in Dallas, Texas. She was also ordered to pay a \$460,000 fine. Malcolm, who laundered the proceeds from the prostitution, admitted that she paid the victims' debts to human smugglers, took their passports, and told them they could not leave until they had paid off their debts to her. Malcolm then forced the victims to live and work at one of her three brothels in order to pay off their debts to her and for her own profit. Malcolm directed the victims to work as prostitutes for six to seven days a week and many were forced to be available for sex 24 hours a day. She monitored the victims' movements in person, through an escort, and through a video surveillance system inside one of the brothels.  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2006/agreporhumantrafficking2006.pdf> (see page 46)

**United States v. Norris (Georgia):** Three defendants were charged with conspiracy to hold young women to a condition of peonage, to obtain the forced labor and services of young women, to traffic young women for purposes of forced labor and peonage, and to traffic young women for commercial sex acts. From 2001 until August 2005, the defendants allegedly recruited and sometimes kidnapped young women and forced them to engage in prostitution in the Atlanta, Georgia area. Harrison Norris allegedly used his notoriety as a professional wrestler to recruit some of the victims with promises of training to compete as wrestlers. The defendants would also recruit young women through physical force, by paying legal fines or bail for them, and by using false pretenses. Once the defendants lured women into their service, they used physical violence, sexual abuse, threats of force, sleep and food deprivation, constant monitoring, and an elaborate debt system and house rules to keep the women working involuntarily as prostitutes. The conspirators would also confiscate the women's mobile phones and identification documents. The women believed that they would suffer serious consequences if they tried to leave the defendants. Two of the defendants have pleaded guilty and two additional defendants in related cases pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI during the investigation.  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2006/agreporhumantrafficking2006.pdf> (see page 46)

**United States v. Sanchez, et al. (North Carolina):** Three defendants were charged in a sex trafficking conspiracy for allegedly arranging for women and minor children to be transported to North Carolina from other states to work in their prostitution houses. Two defendants have pleaded guilty.  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2006/agreporhumantrafficking2006.pdf> (see page 46)

**United States v. Kang, et al. (New York):** A Korean couple lured Korean women to New York City with promises of jobs as hostesses in their nightclub, but once in the United States, they were forced into prostitution. The victims were subjected to physical abuse and rape while being held to repay a \$10,000 debt. The Kangs pleaded guilty along with five other defendants. Among the other defendants were a U.S. Air Marshal and a CBP Officer, who attempted to force one of the victims to get on a flight to South Korea to keep her from testifying against the Kangs. Three defendants received prison terms of 120 months and a fourth defendant was sentenced to 33 months in prison. Two additional defendants were sentenced to three and four years probation respectively and the seventh defendant was sentenced to time served. Two



defendants were also ordered to pay \$85,976 restitution to the victims.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2006/agreporhumantrafficking2006.pdf> (see page 48)

**United States v. Yang, et al. (California):** Thirty-six defendants were charged in four cases related to a sex trafficking conspiracy. The defendants allegedly ran a trafficking ring that smuggled women from Korea into the United States where they were forced to work as prostitutes in San Francisco. Twenty-one of the defendants have entered guilty pleas for their involvement in this scheme.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2006/agreporhumantrafficking2006.pdf> (see page 49)

**United States v. Zheng and Liu (Northern Mariana Islands):** Two defendants were convicted of sex trafficking charges for running several karaoke bars in Saipan that were fronts for prostitution. They worked with recruiter/brokers to bring women from China to the Northern Mariana Islands with promises that they would be working as waitresses but instead forced them into prostitution through debt, physical threats, and violence. The defendants were sentenced to 78 and 33 months in prison, fined \$55,000 and ordered to pay \$25,220 restitution to one victim and \$22,220 to a second victim.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2006/agreporhumantrafficking2006.pdf> (see page 49)

**United States v. Carreto (New York):** An ICE-led investigation conducted in collaboration with Mexican law enforcement targeted a sex trafficking organization that smuggled Mexican women into the United States. Upon arrival the women were forced into prostitution at various brothels on the East Coast with threats of violence against them and their children left in Mexico. The traffickers raped several of the women. Four defendants pleaded guilty to sex trafficking, forced labor, and human smuggling charges. In April 2006, two of the defendants were sentenced to 50 years imprisonment. Two other defendants received 25 years and six and one half years imprisonment, respectively. Another member of the organization was arrested in Mexico in October 2005 and was extradited to the United States. This case was prosecuted by attorneys in the Civil Rights Division at DOJ and the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Eastern District of New York.

[http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/trafficking\\_newsletter/aug\\_06.php#3](http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/trafficking_newsletter/aug_06.php#3)

**United States v. Kim, Park, Bae, Lee, Shin, Lim (New York):** ICE agents in New York, working with the FBI and NYPD, identified a criminal organization engaged in the smuggling and trafficking of undocumented South Korean women into the United States for the purpose of prostitution. In August 2006, 18 search warrants and 31 arrest warrants were executed at brothels throughout the northeast United States. Once the women arrived in the United States, they were placed in one of numerous brothels in order to pay large financial debts owed to recruiters in Korea and to other members of the defendants' organization. The owner or manager of the brothel confiscated identification and travel documents from the women and threatened to turn the women in to law enforcement and/or harm their families in Korea, should they leave the prostitution business before paying off their debts. Eleven defendants were charged with conspiracy to commit human smuggling, human trafficking, and Mann Act violations and all pleaded guilty. Four defendants were sentenced to prison terms of seven months (time served), 15 months, 27 months and 41 months, with the latter defendant also ordered to forfeit \$200,000. A fifth defendant received probation. Sentencing is pending on the remaining defendants. This case was prosecuted by attorneys in the Civil Rights Division and the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Eastern District of New York.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2006/agreporhumantrafficking2006.pdf> (see page 50)

**Anthony Mark Bianchi (Pennsylvania):** In March 2005, ICE agents in Philadelphia initiated an investigation of Anthony Mark Bianchi after he arrived at the Philadelphia International Airport from Romania. Customs and Border Protection Inspectors referred Bianchi for a secondary inspection. ICE agents who were present during the secondary exam discovered a piece of paper with a boy's name, telephone number, and address in Romania. Preliminary investigation by ICE agents revealed that in March 2000, Bianchi was arrested in Moscow, Russia for engaging in sex with children. He was sentenced to three years imprisonment but was granted amnesty by a Russian court and was expelled from Russia. The ICE Attaché Vienna, with the assistance of Moldovan and Romanian authorities, determined that Bianchi had engaged in sexual activity



with a Moldovan child who was in the company of the boy from Romania. Analysis of seized documents led to the identification of Ion Gusin, a co-conspirator of Bianchi. During an interview with Moldovan authorities, Gusin admitted that during a trip to Cuba in December 2004, Bianchi paid Gusin \$600 to have sex with Gusin's thirteen-year-old brother. In January 2006, ICE agents arrested Bianchi at his residence in Wildwood, New Jersey, and Moldovan authorities arrested Gusin in Moldova with the assistance of the ICE Attaché Vienna. Bianchi was charged with child sex tourism (PROTECT Act) violations. Moldovan authorities charged Gusin with trafficking in persons violations. Bianchi was subsequently indicted for child sex tourism violations. <http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2006/agreporhumantrafficking2006.pdf> (see page 50)

**Connecticut Woman Sentenced for Role in Sex Trafficking Ring (Connecticut):** The Justice Department announced today that Shanaya Hicks of Bloomfield, Conn., was sentenced today to 46 months in prison for her involvement in a prostitution ring that victimized minor girls and coerced young women to engage in commercial sex acts against their will. Hicks and nine co-defendants were charged in a 64-count superseding indictment on August 8, 2006. Hicks pleaded guilty on March 14, 2007, to the following charges: two counts of sex trafficking of minors, two counts of sex trafficking of adult women (through force, fraud or coercion), and conspiracy. Eight other charged individuals, including co-defendant Brian Forbes, also pleaded guilty in the case.

[http://www.usdoj.gov/opa/pr/2008/April/08\\_crt\\_262.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/opa/pr/2008/April/08_crt_262.html)

**Hartford Man Sentenced for Role in Sex Trafficking Ring (Connecticut):** The Justice Department announced today that Brian Forbes of Hartford, Conn., was sentenced to 156 months in prison for his involvement in a sex trafficking ring that victimized minor girls and coerced young women to engage in commercial sex acts against their will. Forbes was also ordered to serve 3 years of supervised release and to pay \$16,339 in restitution to his victims. Forbes was charged in a 64-count superseding indictment, along with nine other co-defendants, on Aug. 8, 2006. Mr. Forbes pleaded guilty on March 4, 2007, to three counts of sex trafficking of minors, two counts of sex trafficking adult women (through force, fraud, or coercion) and one count of conspiracy to use interstate facilities to promote prostitution. Eight others, including co-defendant Shanaya Hicks, also pleaded guilty in this case.

[http://www.usdoj.gov/opa/pr/2008/April/08\\_crt\\_276.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/opa/pr/2008/April/08_crt_276.html)

**George Hoey Morris:** In 2004, ICE's Cyber Crimes Center investigated the Internet website [www.virginbride.net](http://www.virginbride.net) for possible child exploitation violations. This website was owned and operated by George Hoey Morris, a citizen and resident of the United States. Morris claimed on his website that he had sex with numerous underage girls in Vietnam. Morris also wrote a book, "How to Marry a Bride," to promote his website and teach other pedophiles how to obtain underage females in Vietnam. The ICE Attaché Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam worked with the ICE agents in Alabama to locate victims based on images posted on Morris' website and in his book. The ICE Attaché Ho Chi Minh City was successful in identifying one of the female victims from Morris' publications, and the victim agreed to cooperate with the ICE investigation. In June 2006, ICE Attaché Ho Chi Minh City personnel escorted Morris' victim from Vietnam to Montgomery, Alabama to provide grand jury testimony and depositions regarding Morris. Morris was subsequently indicted in the Middle District of Alabama on several charges, including violations of the PROTECT Act. In October 2006, Morris was convicted of child sex tourism violations, federal firearms violations, and passport and visa fraud. He is currently awaiting sentencing on those charges.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2006/agreporhumantrafficking2006.pdf> (see page 51)

### **Sex Trafficking Cases Involving Minors (2006)**

**United States v. Doss, et al. (California):** On June 26, 2006, a jury in the Central District of California found Juan Rico Doss, of Reno, Nevada, guilty of two counts of sex trafficking of children, three counts of transporting minors into prostitution, one count of conspiracy to commit sex trafficking of children and transporting minors into prostitution, and two counts of witness tampering. Doss was found not guilty on one count of witness tampering. These charges arose from information that Doss prostituted two minor victims in



both California and Reno, Nevada, during the first two weeks of May 2005. Doss, along with his wife Jacquay Quinn Ford, conspired to recruit a 14-year-old female and a 16-year-old female to work for Doss as prostitutes. Once recruited, Doss and his wife transported these victims to various locations in California including Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Francisco, and Oakland for the purpose of prostitution. On several occasions, Doss and Ford also transported these minors from Los Angeles and other parts of California to Reno, Nevada for the purpose of prostitution. Prior to trial, Ford pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy for her role in transporting these minors for the purpose of illegal sexual activity. On December 4, 2006, she was sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment to be followed by three years' supervised release. Doss, who has a prior state conviction for pandering of a child stemming from his transportation of other minors for the purpose of prostitution, faces a statutory term of mandatory life in prison for his conviction on the transporting of minors for the purpose of prostitution charge, and up to life in prison for sex trafficking of children by force.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2006/agreporhumantrafficking2006.pdf> (see page 51)

**United States v. Obert (California):** On February 1, 2006, Timothy Ronald Obert, a former Peace Corps volunteer, pleaded guilty in the Northern District of California to sexual abuse of a minor for engaging in sexual acts with a minor boy, who was 14 years old, while Obert was working in the Peace Corps in Costa Rica. Obert had been charged with traveling in foreign commerce and engaging in illicit sexual conduct, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2423(c), and sexual abuse of a minor within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2243(a) and 18 U.S.C. § 7(9)(B). Obert admitted to knowingly and intentionally engaging in illicit sexual conduct with a Costa Rican minor in the apartment in which he was residing. This case is the first prosecution of a Peace Corps volunteer for sexually assaulting a minor while serving in the Peace Corps in a foreign country. In addition, this case is one of the first prosecutions making use of 18 U.S.C. § 7(9), a statute enacted under the PATRIOT Act, which expanded the special and maritime jurisdiction of the United States to encompass residences in foreign countries that were being used by U.S. personnel on U.S. missions. This case is pending sentencing.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2006/agreporhumantrafficking2006.pdf> (see page 53)

**U.S. v. Evans, Yearby, and Madison (Florida):** On March 15, 2006, Mark Madison of Miami, Florida, was sentenced to 168 months in prison for one count of knowingly benefiting from participation in a venture which had engaged in an act of sex trafficking of a child by force, fraud, or coercion and one count of conspiracy to transport a minor in interstate commerce for purposes of prostitution. In January 2006, two other defendants—Justin Evans and Chad Yearby, both of Miami, Florida—were sentenced as a result of this same investigation and prosecution. Evans was sentenced to 282 months in prison and ordered to pay \$15,846.57 in restitution as a result of his conviction for one count of trafficking a child by force, fraud, or coercion to engage in a commercial sex act and one count of using a facility of interstate commerce to entice a minor to engage in prostitution. Yearby was sentenced to 40 months' imprisonment as a result of his guilty plea to one count of conspiracy to transport a minor in interstate or foreign commerce for the purposes of prostitution. At sentencing, Yearby received consideration for his cooperation with the investigation, including providing information that led to the identification and location of additional underage victims. One of Evans's victims was 14 years old at the time of the events in question. Evans would either procure "customers" for her, whom she would meet at rented hotel rooms, or he would force her to find customers by walking the streets. The victim gave all the money she earned to Evans. The then 14-year-old victim began working for Evans in approximately December 2004. Twice in 2005, she was hospitalized for treatment for complications of advanced AIDS. Evans knew both her age and her health condition. Despite her poor health, Evans told her she should work every day, even when she felt too sick to do so. After her first hospitalization in 2005, Evans contacted her numerous times by telephone to persuade her to continue working for him on the streets. On several occasions, Evans would beat her. Another victim was 16. Yearby took her from northern Florida to the Miami area, and introduced her to Madison. The victim began working as a prostitute for Madison, staying at his residence, at hotels, and occasionally at Yearby's residence. Madison would either procure "customers" for her who she would meet at rented hotel rooms, or he would force her to find customers by walking the streets. Madison kept all the money the victim earned, provided



her with condoms to use, and was aware of her age. Madison also had sexual relations with her. When she attempted to leave him, he beat her.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2006/agreporhumantrafficking2006.pdf> (see page 52)

**United States v. Brice (District of Columbia):** On February 28, 2006, a federal jury sitting in the District of Columbia convicted Jaron Brice, also known as “Jaron,” “Jay,” “Jay Bird,” and “Daddy,” 27, of nine counts related to his illegal sex trafficking operation that involved the prostitution and sexual assault of females as young as 14 years old. Brice was charged with sex trafficking of a child and sex trafficking by force, interstate transportation of a minor and adult for prostitution, first degree child sexual abuse, and pandering. The evidence showed that from March 2004 through May 17, 2005, Brice recruited females as young as 14 years of age to engage in prostitution for his own financial benefit. He caused these females to prostitute in D.C. and other locations, including Maryland, New York, and Florida. He used emotional and physical violence, including armed threats, to ensure their compliance with his rules. Brice also had sexual intercourse with one of his prostitutes, then 14 years old. On September 15, 2006, Brice was sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment and a ten-year term of supervised release.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2006/agreporhumantrafficking2006.pdf> (see page 53)

**United States v. Evans (Florida):** On May 23, 2006, Gary Evans was indicted on one count of conspiring to arrange the travel of an individual for the purpose of engaging in illicit sexual conduct, specifically, a commercial sex act with a person under 18 years of age, and one count of arranging such travel. He pleaded guilty on October 23, 2006, to the conspiracy count and was sentenced on January 22, 2007, to 250 months in prison and a lifetime of supervised release. According to the plea agreement, Evans contacted the operator of a Web site that purported to sell “sex tour” packages to overseas locations. According to the site, the tour price would include an under-age companion who would have sex with the traveler. Evans proposed a partnership with the operator of that site in which they would jointly operate tours to Honduras and Costa Rica, where clients would pay to have sex with minors. However, the site was actually part of an FBI undercover investigation.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2006/agreporhumantrafficking2006.pdf> (see page 53)



## 2005

### Sex Trafficking Cases Involving Adults (2005)

**United States v. Babaev (New York):** In July 2005, Alex Babaev and Asgar Mammedov pled guilty to sex trafficking for bringing young women from Azerbaijan into the United States to work as prostitutes in New York between March 2003 and March 2004. The men kept the women in prostitution through threats and force, including beatings and rapes, and threats against their families in the Caucasus region. Mammedov was sentenced in December 2005 to ten years of incarceration and ordered to pay \$325,000 in restitution to his victims. In early 2006, Babaev was sentenced to 20 years of incarceration.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/appendices.pdf> (see page 85)

**United States v. Maksimenko (Michigan):** Following the escape of several exotic dancers who sought the assistance of federal law enforcement, Aleksandr Maksimenko and Michail Aronov were indicted in February 2005 on charges of forced labor. The defendants had recruited Russian and Ukrainian women to travel to the United States and held them in a condition of servitude in strip clubs in southeastern Michigan. At least nine women were held by the defendants since 2001 through threats, force, and rape. On September 8, 2005, Aronov pled guilty to conspiracy to violate the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment's prohibition against slavery, immigration violations, and money laundering. As part of his guilty plea, Aronov agreed to forfeit more than \$500,000 in proceeds of his crimes. Maksimenko's wife, mother, and stepmother pled guilty to conspiring to obstruct justice in the wake of the men's arrest.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/appendices.pdf> (see page 86)

Link to U.S. Office of Public Affairs Press Release: [http://www.usdoj.gov/opa/pr/2007/August/07\\_crt\\_634.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/opa/pr/2007/August/07_crt_634.html)

**United States v. Salazar (Texas):** Six defendants were charged with conspiring to traffic young Mexican women and girls into prostitution. The defendants allegedly lured young Mexican girls and women into the United States under false pretenses, then forced them into prostitution, using physical violence and threats to maintain strict control over them. Four of the six defendants have pled guilty to conspiring to commit sex trafficking. Trial for defendant Ivan Salazar is currently set for November 2006. The alleged ringleader, Gerardo Salazar, remains a fugitive.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/appendices.pdf> (see page 87)

**United States v. Okhotina (California):** In January 2003, Alana Okhotina smuggled her eighteen year old niece into the United States from Russia and forced her to work as a prostitute to repay her smuggling debt. The defendant threatened to kill the victim and her family if she did not comply and told her that she would be arrested if she went to the police because she was here in the United States illegally. On December 6, 2005, Okhotina entered a guilty plea to trafficking into slavery. Okhotina's sentencing was pending as of the preparation of this report.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/appendices.pdf> (see page 87)

### Sex Trafficking Cases Involving Minors (2005)

**United States v. Boehm, et. al. (Alaska):** On March 19, 2004, an 18-count indictment was returned against Josef F. Boehm, charging him with conspiring to commit sex trafficking of children, possessing a controlled substance with intent to distribute, being a felon in possession of a firearm, and being an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm and ammunition. Boehm pled guilty on November 22, 2004, to child sex trafficking and drug charges. As part of the plea agreement, he agreed to forfeit his residence and also to provide \$1.2 million in a trust fund for the future benefit of the victims. Boehm was sentenced on May 10, 2005, to 11 years and 3 months of incarceration to be followed by five years' supervised release.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/appendices.pdf> (see page 82)

**Richard Arthur Schmidt (Philippines/Cambodia):** On May 25, 2005, Richard Arthur Schmidt was sentenced to



15 years in prison followed by supervised release for life in connection with his July 8, 2004, guilty plea for molestation of underage boys in the Philippines and in Cambodia. Schmidt had previously been convicted three times of child sex crimes in Maryland, but had been released from prison in 2000 after serving 13 years of an 18-year sentence. In December 2003, ICE agents in Bangkok learned that Schmidt had been subsequently arrested in the Philippines and Cambodia for sexually molesting underage boys. ICE agents worked with Cambodia to get Schmidt expelled from Cambodia and transferred into U.S. custody.

[http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/data/atrc\\_05.pdf](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/data/atrc_05.pdf) (see page 20)

**United States v. Sims (Georgia):** On February 4, 2004, a federal grand jury in the Northern District of Georgia indicted Maurice Sims on six counts, including kidnapping, violations of the TVPA, and transporting a minor in interstate commerce for criminal sexual activity. He had transported a 16 year-old girl from El Dorado, Arkansas to Atlanta, Georgia for purposes of prostitution and en route beat and raped the girl. A superseding indictment was returned March 2, 2004 adding three counts of obstruction of justice. On September 20, 2004, Sims was convicted following a jury trial, and on December 15, 2004 he was sentenced to life imprisonment.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/appendices.pdf> (see page 84)

**United States v. Komala and United States v. Gouw (Virginia):** Defendant Harjanto Komala was charged with conspiring to recruit juvenile females to engage in a commercial sex act and defendant Hans Gouw was charged with conspiracy to commit sex trafficking, immigration fraud, identification document fraud and money laundering. On April 26, 2005, the defendants pled guilty to the charges. The defendants admitted to plotting to recruit young Indonesian women and teenage girls to come to the United States to work as prostitutes and nude dancers. The women and teenage girls would not have been allowed to leave the employment for at least a year, would have had their documents confiscated and would have been closely monitored while living in a house under the control of Gouw, the ringleader. On May 27, 2005, defendant Komala was sentenced to one year and a day in prison and the judge ordered the forfeiture of \$50,000. On September 9, 2005, defendant Gouw was sentenced to five and a half years in prison.

[http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/data/atrc\\_05.pdf](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/orr/data/atrc_05.pdf) (see page 21)



## 2004

### Sex Trafficking Cases Involving Adults (2004)

**United States v. Kang, et al. (New York):** Seven defendants, including a Korean couple named the Kangs and two DHS employees, were charged with violating the TVPA and other statutes. The Kangs lured young women from South Korea to New York City with promises of jobs as hostesses in their nightclub, but upon their arrival subjected them to rapes and physical abuse and attempted to force them into commercial sexual exploitation. After the victims reported the abuse, the two DHS employees, at the behest of the defendants, tried to obstruct the investigation by arranging for the victims to leave the country. One defendant, a Korean immigrant, pleaded guilty in September 2004 to obstructing justice for attempting to conceal business records and other documents from the bar run by the Kangs. Sentence for that defendant is pending. Trial for the remaining defendants is scheduled for October 31, 2005. (Also included in Trafficking Cases 2005)

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/appendices.pdf> (see page 83)

**United States v. Roberts (Florida):** A police patrolman in Hollywood, Florida was charged with sex trafficking of children and coercion or enticement of a female into prostitution. He was arrested in a sting after going to a Miami hotel thinking that he was about to meet two children brought to the United States to have sex with him. He was convicted at trial in January 2005 on the sex trafficking charge and acquitted on the other violation and was sentenced in April 2005 to 37 months in prison.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2004/agreporthumantrafficking.pdf> (see page 23)

**United States v. Domingo Gonzalez-Garcia, United States v. Gonzalez-Garcia, and United States v. Romero-Gonzalez (New Jersey):** In New Jersey, three Mexican nationals, including a man and his nephew, pleaded guilty to smuggling an alien into the United States for the purpose of engaging in prostitution. The defendants admitted that in July 2001 they brought the common law wife of the nephew from Mexico to Union City, New Jersey with the intent that she work as a prostitute in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and elsewhere. They were sentenced to three years in prison to be followed by three years supervised release and fined \$1,000.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2004/agreporthumantrafficking.pdf> (see page 24)

**United States v. Trakhtenberg, et al. (New Jersey):** Three defendants were charged in 2002 with conspiring to commit forced labor, document fraud, and inducing aliens to unlawfully enter the United States, for carrying out a scheme to obtain the labor and services of Russian women. From the summer of 1999 through August 2002, the defendants induced more than 25 women to come from Russia to the United States using visa petitions falsely claiming they were part of an exchange program with the University of Illinois at Chicago. Instead, the women were forced to dance nude up to 10 hours a day, six days a week at strip clubs. In addition, the women's passports and return airline tickets were confiscated to make it difficult for them to leave. In 2004, two defendants pleaded guilty to conspiring to force Russian women to dance in New Jersey strip clubs and are awaiting sentencing. Trial is pending for the remaining defendant. In a related case brought in 2004 in the Southern District of New York, one defendant was charged and subsequently pleaded guilty to conspiring to commit extortion against another Russian woman he had prostituted, who was told she had to pay \$5,000 when she wanted to quit. When the woman failed to pay the demanded sum, the defendant arranged for a conspirator to contact the woman and threaten her family with physical harm. He was sentenced in that related case on March 10, 2005, to 42 months in prison, to be followed by three years supervised release, and to pay \$10,000 restitution.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/appendices.pdf> (see page 79)

**United States v. Carreto, et al. and United States v. Carreto Reyes (New York):** As the result of an investigation based initially upon information from the U.S. Embassy in Mexico, eight defendants have been charged with





forced labor and organizing and operating a trafficking ring that smuggled Mexican women and girls into the United States and then forced them into commercial sexual exploitation in Queens and Brooklyn. The defendants, most of whom are related to each other, come from the same small town in south-central Mexico. They recruited young impoverished women in Mexico by forming romantic relationships with them. Once in the United States, the women were beaten and threatened to keep them working. Proceeds from commercial sex acts were taken by the defendants and wire transferred to the defendants' family in Mexico. Six defendants have pleaded guilty to trafficking charges, including three who had initially been prepared to go to trial, but then subsequently pleaded guilty to all 27 counts of the indictment after jury selection. The two remaining defendants are presently incarcerated in Mexico on Mexican federal charges related to their role in this human trafficking conspiracy. Private attorneys have also assisted the victims in obtaining custody of their children, who were being held by the traffickers' families to control the women, and efforts are underway to reunite them with their mothers. This is a high-profile case that was featured on the television program 48 Hours.

<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2005/46618.htm>

**United States v. Romero-Flores and Ventura (California):** Two defendants were charged with two counts of harboring aliens and two counts of harboring aliens for purposes of prostitution. Defendant Ventura was also charged with one count of bringing an alien into the United States for financial gain and one count of transporting an alien for purposes of prostitution. The defendants allegedly brought two women to the United States from Mexico to work as prostitutes. Trial is pending.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2004/agreporhumantrafficking.pdf> (see page 27)

**United States v. Tantirojanikitkan, et al. (New Jersey):** Three of five defendants charged in 2001 with conspiring to transport illegal female aliens from Thailand into the United States to engage in prostitution have been convicted. Two defendants who pleaded guilty to conspiracy charges received prison terms of 17 months and 12 months. In Fiscal Year 2004, a third defendant was convicted at trial of alien smuggling, transporting aliens for prostitution and attempting to hire a hit man to murder a Special Agent of the FBI. He was sentenced to 17 and one half years in prison. Two defendants are fugitives.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2004/agreporhumantrafficking.pdf> (see page 27)

**United States v. Rojas (Georgia):** Three brothers, using various pseudonyms, engaged in a sex trafficking scheme to seduce young Mexican women and girls and lure them to the United States with promises of legitimate employment. The defendants smuggled the victims from Mexico to the Atlanta metropolitan area and then forced them into prostitution through a combination of psychological coercion, threats, and physical abuse. Upon their arrival in the United States, the victims were told never to leave the apartment. The defendants threatened to call the victims' parents and tell them that the girls were working as prostitutes and threatened to abandon the girls without any money or support. Thereafter, the victims were made to work nearly every night of the week, servicing upwards of 20 customers per night. Arrangements were made for the girls to be taken to various apartments by taxi drivers. At the end of each night, the taxi driver would keep half the money earned, and the defendants, the other half. The defendants were charged with conspiracy, sex trafficking, importing and harboring aliens for the purpose of prostitution, alien smuggling and interstate transportation of illegal aliens. Two brothers pleaded guilty in 2004 and were sentenced to 71 months and 57 months in prison. The third brother fled and is now a fugitive.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2004/agreporhumantrafficking.pdf> (see page 27)

### **Sex Trafficking Cases Involving Minors (2004)**

**United States v. Lopez-Torres (Texas):** Defendant Maria Magdalena Lopez-Torres, a resident alien and convicted felon living in Austin, Texas, was charged in a three-count indictment with the illegal importation of aliens for prostitution and with firearm violations. The indictment alleged that on May 22, 2003, she managed or supervised an operation where minor females were forced to engage in commercial sex acts.



The indictment also charged that Lopez-Torres possessed a Sako bolt-action rifle that she knew was stolen and, as a convicted felon, was prohibited from possessing. The defendant pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 12 years in prison.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2004/agreporhumantrafficing.pdf> (see page 24)

**United States v. Parsons, United States v. Thomas, United States v. Washington, United States v. Williams and Southwell, United States v. White, United States v. Sutherland, United States v. Scott, and United States v. Phillips (Oklahoma):** Nine defendants were charged in connection with “Stormy Nights,” a child prostitution investigation undertaken by the FBI. The defendants were charged with Sex Trafficking Cases Involving Minors and transporting juveniles for use in prostitution. Eight defendants pleaded guilty between June 14, 2004 and August 20, 2004, and received prison terms ranging up to 210 months, with the average about 100 months. A ninth defendant was convicted at trial on January 11, 2005, and his sentencing is pending.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2004/agreporhumantrafficing.pdf> (see page 25)

**United States v. Gates and Heyward (District of Columbia):** Defendants Gary Gates and Tamisha Heyward were charged with violating multiple counts of sex trafficking and transportation of persons, including minors, for use in prostitution. Heyward was also charged with unlawful possession of a firearm, while Gates was charged with two counts of first degree child sexual abuse. The defendants operated a sex-trafficking and Internet prostitution business from their home, at times using girls as young as 14 to perform sexual acts. Gates beat the women who disobeyed him, and he also sexually assaulted many of the women and provided drugs to support some of the women's addictions. Both defendants pleaded guilty. Gates was sentenced to 178 months in prison and fined \$1,000, and Heyward was sentenced to 108 months in prison and fined \$5,000.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2004/agreporhumantrafficing.pdf> (see page 25)

**United States v. Valle-Maldonado, et al. (California):** Four defendants, including a Mexican woman who ran a brothel, were convicted on federal conspiracy charges to bring at least 12 Mexican women, including 14- and 15-year-old girls, to work as prostitutes in the United States. Valle-Maldonado, who pleaded guilty, admitted that she recruited young women, including teenagers, in Mexico and paid for them to be smuggled into the United States so they could work for her as prostitutes at massage parlors and residences in the Los Angeles area. Two other defendants pleaded guilty to conspiracy to import and harbor aliens for the purpose of prostitution and importation of aliens for the purpose of prostitution. A fourth defendant was found guilty at trial of transporting illegal aliens. On November 1, 2004, defendant Valle-Maldonado was sentenced to 54 months in prison and ordered to pay \$135,542 in restitution to the victims; on August 16, 2004, and September 13, 2004 two other defendants received six- month prison terms. Sentencing for the fourth defendant is pending.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2004/agreporhumantrafficing.pdf> (see page 25)

**United States v. Thompson (Minnesota):** Ray Jay Dean Thompson was charged with transportation of a minor with intent to engage in criminal sexual activity, sexual trafficking of a minor, and being a felon in possession of ammunition. The defendant allegedly prostituted two minor females in Minneapolis-St. Paul. On March 14, 2005, defendant Thompson entered a guilty plea, and sentencing is pending.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2004/agreporhumantrafficing.pdf> (see page 27)

**United States v. Nathan Lovaas (California):** Nathan Lovaas was indicted on September 30, 2003, in San Francisco, California, for distribution of child pornography and conspiracy to commit the offense of traveling for the purpose of engaging in a sexual act with a minor (sex tourism). He traveled from the United States to Thailand and Mexico on several occasions for the purpose of engaging in sexual acts with minors and photographing the abuse. On March 4, 2005, Lovaas pled guilty to distributing child pornography in violation of 18 U.S.C. 2252(a)(2)(A). Sentencing is pending.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2004/agreporhumantrafficing.pdf> (see page 28)



**United States v. Russell (California):** Bernard Lawrence Russell was indicted on December 3, 2003, on charges of traveling in foreign commerce with intent to engage in sex with a juvenile, production of child pornography, and possession with intent to import child pornography. Investigation by ICE revealed that Russell traveled to the Philippines on numerous occasions over a two-year period in order to engage in sexual acts with children and to produce child pornography for the purpose of importation into the United States. At least three Filipino children have been identified as Russell's victims. Russell pled guilty on April 22, 2005. Sentencing is pending.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2004/agreporthumantrafficking.pdf> (see page 28)

**United States v. Bohning (Florida):** A 13-count indictment was returned on February 24, 2004, against Raymond George Bohning charging him with use of a computer to entice a minor to engage in criminal sexual activity; travel in foreign commerce to engage in such activity (sex tourism); attempt to produce child pornography; and receipt, possession, distribution, and transportation of child pornography. The investigation revealed that Bohning traveled to the United Kingdom on November 7, 2003, to engage in sexual activity with a 13-year-old girl there. A preliminary forensic examination of the hard drive taken from Bohning's laptop computer revealed in excess of 10,000 images of child pornography including many images of infant children being sexually abused. The examination also revealed that Bohning had a list of 374 computer user names and e-mail addresses, both from within and outside the United States. On August 31, 2004, a superseding indictment was returned charging Bohning with two additional counts of receipt of child pornography as well as production of child pornography. Bohning is currently serving a sentence in the United Kingdom, and extradition from the UK to the United States is being pursued.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2004/agreporthumantrafficking.pdf> (see page 28)

**United States v. Boehm, et. al. (Alaska):** On March 19, 2004, an 18-count federal indictment was returned against Josef F. Boehm charging him with conspiracy to commit sex trafficking of children, possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute, being a felon in possession of a firearm, and being an unlawful user in possession of a firearm and ammunition. A superseding indictment also charged three others with conspiracy to commit sex trafficking, sex trafficking of children, and conspiracy to distribute cocaine and crack to persons under the age of 21. All four defendants are in federal custody. Boehm pleaded guilty on November 22, 2004 to child sex trafficking and to drug charges. As part of the plea agreement, he agreed to forfeit his residence and also to provide \$1.2 million in a trust fund for the future benefit of the victims. Three defendants previously pleaded guilty. Sentencing for the defendants is pending.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2004/agreporthumantrafficking.pdf> (see page 29)

**United States v. Obert (California):** On June 23, 2004, Timothy Obert, a former Peace Corps volunteer in Costa Rica, was charged with engaging in illicit sexual conduct with a minor boy. The sexual conduct occurred approximately 20 times over a two-year period during which the boy was between the ages of 12 and 14 years old. Obert was charged pursuant to the PROTECT Act. (Also included in Trafficking Cases 2006)

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2004/agreporthumantrafficking.pdf> (see page 29)

**United States v. Flores, et al. (North Carolina):** The charges in this case stem from the conspiratorial activities of four co-defendants who traveled interstate with the 13-year-old niece of one of the defendants and had the minor child and the female defendant engage in prostitution for money. Charges include conspiracy to transport a minor for the purpose of illegal sexual activity and conspiracy to transport an adult for the purpose of illegal sexual activity. Three of the four original defendants pleaded guilty on April 11, 2003, and the fourth pleaded guilty on September 25, 2003. Two of the defendants were sentenced on February 10, 2004, and the other two on April 21, 2004, with the sentences of 46 months, 121 months, 180 months, and 235 months.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2004/agreporthumantrafficking.pdf> (see page 29)

**United States v. Clark (Washington):** Michael Clark was arrested in June 2003 in Cambodia for sexually abusing two Cambodian boys, ages 10 and 13. Clark was subsequently indicted in the United States on



September 24, 2003, and charged with attempting to and engaging in illicit sexual conduct after travel in foreign commerce. The case is believed to be the first such prosecution under the new provisions of the PROTECT Act. Clark pleaded guilty on March 17, 2004 and was sentenced on June 25, 2004 to 97 months' imprisonment.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2004/agreporhumantrafficking.pdf> (see page 29)

**United States v. Curtis (District of Columbia):** On December 3, 2004, a seven-count indictment was returned charging Carlos Curtis with sex trafficking, transporting a minor in interstate commerce for prostitution, and production of child pornography. The FBI began investigating this case as part of the Innocence Lost initiative. Curtis and other associates recruited a 12-year-old girl in Times Square in New York and brought her to a hotel room in Brooklyn, where he photographed the girl engaged in sexually explicit conduct with an adult prostitute. A superseding indictment was returned March 31, 2004, charging obstruction of justice as a result of the defendant's efforts to get the victim to change her testimony at trial. Following a two-week jury trial, Curtis was convicted on July 2, 2004. Sentencing is pending. He faces up to life imprisonment.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2004/agreporhumantrafficking.pdf> (see page 29)

**United States v. Schmidt (Maryland):** Richard Schmidt, a United States citizen, was charged by criminal complaint on January 13, 2004, as a result of his travel to Cambodia to engage in criminal sexual activity with underage boys. During the search of Schmidt's apartment, court documents from the Philippines were also found which made reference to accusations against Schmidt for lascivious acts with two minor boys in the Philippines. Schmidt was indicted on February 5, 2004. OIA secured the expulsion of Schmidt from Cambodia to the United States, where he was arrested upon arrival on February 19, 2004. He pleaded guilty on July 8, 2004. Sentencing is pending.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2004/agreporhumantrafficking.pdf> (see page 30)

**United States v. Branigan (Indiana):** On November 19, 2003, a federal grand jury in the Southern District of Indiana returned a six-count indictment against Edward Patrick Branigan, charging him with two counts of traveling in interstate commerce to engage in illegal sex with a minor, three counts of production of child pornography, and one count of possession of child pornography. The indictment stems from a lengthy investigation by the FBI and ICE which began when the FBI learned that a minor female in Indiana had been the subject of child pornography produced by Branigan and that he may have been prostituting her in Las Vegas. Further investigation revealed that he had traveled to Indiana on at least two occasions to have sex with a 14-year-old child and to film the child engaged in sexually explicit conduct. Branigan also filmed a second 14-year-old child in Indiana engaged in sexually explicit conduct and placed some of the sexually explicit images he produced on the Internet. Branigan entered a guilty plea on July 12, 2004, and was sentenced on October 14, 2004 to 14 years' imprisonment. Branigan was also ordered to pay \$24,000 in restitution.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2004/agreporhumantrafficking.pdf> (see page 30)

**United States v. Sims (Georgia):** Maurice Sims transported a 16-year-old girl from El Dorado, Arkansas, to Atlanta, Georgia, for purposes of prostitution. Along the route he beat and raped the girl. On February 4, 2004, a federal grand jury indicted Sims on six counts including kidnapping, violations of the TVPA, and transporting a minor in interstate commerce for criminal sexual activity. A superseding indictment was returned March 2, 2004, adding three counts of obstruction of justice. Following a jury trial, Sims was convicted on September 20, 2004, and sentenced to life imprisonment on December 15, 2004. His co-defendant, who testified against Sims at trial, was sentenced to five years' imprisonment.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2004/agreporhumantrafficking.pdf> (see page 30)

**United States v. Seljan (California):** John W. Seljan was charged in a nine-count indictment with attempted travel for the purpose of illicit sexual conduct, use of an interstate or foreign facility for the purpose of enticing a minor, production of child pornography, and possession of child pornography. ICE agents arrested Seljan at Los Angeles International Airport, on October 3, 2003, as he was about to board an



international flight to the Philippines. At the time of his arrest, Seljan had a large sum of currency and Polaroid pictures of explicit sexual conduct involving him and minor Filipino girls. Following a bench trial, Seljan was convicted on November 19, 2004. He was sentenced on March 28, 2005, to 20 years imprisonment followed by lifetime supervised release.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2004/agreporthumantrafficking.pdf> (see page 30)

**United States v. Jackson (Washington):** On June 23, 2004, Gary Evans Jackson pleaded guilty to three counts of travel in foreign commerce to engaging in, and engaging in, illicit sexual conduct in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2423(c), for engaging in sexual conduct with three minor boys aged approximately from 10 to 15 years old. The plea agreement was conditional, giving the defendant the right to pursue a motion to dismiss the indictment on a Constitutional ex post facto claim, and included a stipulated sentence of 15 years' imprisonment. On July 28, 2004, the court heard oral argument on Jackson's motion to dismiss the indictment, and granted the motion on February 10, 2005, on ex post facto grounds. The government filed a notice of appeal on February 11, 2005. Further proceedings are pending.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2004/agreporthumantrafficking.pdf> (see page 31)



## 2003

### Sex Trafficking Cases Involving Adults (2003)

**United States v. Juan and Jose Rojas (N.D. Georgia):** Two defendants were charged with importing a young Mexican female into the United States with the intention of forcing her into prostitution. The defendants allegedly persuaded her and possibly other young women to come to the United States to work in a restaurant, and then denied them food and threatened them with harm and abandonment if they indicated any unwillingness to work as prostitutes. The investigation and prosecution, headed by the Civil Rights Division and the local U.S. Attorney, are continuing.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/050104agreporttocongresstvprav10.pdf> (see page 24)

**United States v. Flores (W.D. North Carolina):** Wilmer Martin Flores was indicted on November 4, 2002 and later pled guilty on September 25, 2003 to charges including conspiracies to transport both a minor and an adult for the purposes of illegal sexual activity. Flores was the purported leader of a group (including two other men and a woman) who traveled interstate with the thirteen-year-old niece of one of the defendants and had the minor child and the female defendant engage in prostitution for money. The three other conspirators were similarly charged and previously pled guilty. The local U.S. Attorney's Office prosecuted this case in consultation with the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section.

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/050104agreporttocongresstvprav10.pdf> (see page 26)

### Sex Trafficking Cases Involving Minors (2003)

**United States v. Trisanti and Nasution (C.D. California):** Two defendants were charged with trafficking Indonesian women into the United States and then forcing them to work as domestic servants against their will by threats and physical violence. The victims were told they were not free to leave and their passports were seized. Defendant Trisanti pled guilty to involuntary servitude on January 16, 2004, and sentencing is scheduled for July 2004. The Civil Rights Division is prosecuting the case.

[http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/wetf/us\\_assessment\\_2004.pdf](http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/wetf/us_assessment_2004.pdf) (see page 29)

**United States v. Quinton Williams (D. Nevada):** The defendant was convicted on April 2, 2003 of sex trafficking of children, transporting both a minor and an adult for prostitution, money laundering, and interstate travel in aid of racketeering. Williams was sentenced on June 20, 2003 to 125 months in prison and ordered to pay a \$2,500 fine. As the operator of a prostitution business, the defendant transported the sixteen-year-old juvenile and adult victims cross-country by car to Indiana, Texas, Arizona, and Nevada, where he supervised their prostitution activities and collected and kept all of their earnings. The defendant, who has prior felony convictions for attempted robbery and narcotics trafficking, filed only one federal individual income tax return in the past ten years with fewer than \$500 total reported earnings. The case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, was prosecuted by the local U.S. Attorney's Office in consultation with the Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, and was the first prosecution in Nevada under 18 U.S.C. § 1591.

[http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/wetf/us\\_assessment\\_2004.pdf](http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/wetf/us_assessment_2004.pdf) (see page 31)

**United States v. Guzman, et al. (N.D. Georgia):** Four defendants were charged in a superseding indictment on January 30, 2003 with conspiring to transport and harbor three female aliens for prostitution, including two juveniles, from Mexico into the United States and forcing them to engage in prostitution in the Atlanta metropolitan area. One of the four defendants pled guilty to conspiring to violate the Mann Act and to importing, harboring and employing young Mexican female aliens for the purpose of prostitution; on July 30, 2003 he was sentenced to 33 months in prison. Trial is pending on the other defendants; the case is being prosecuted by the Civil Rights Division and the local U.S. Attorney's Office.

[http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/wetf/us\\_assessment\\_2004.pdf](http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/wetf/us_assessment_2004.pdf) (see page 32)



**United States v. Jimenez-Calderon, et al. (D. New Jersey):** In *United States v. Jimenez-Calderon*, the Criminal Section, in collaboration with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey, secured one of the first convictions under 18 U.S.C. § 1591. The Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section consulted on this matter as well. In this case, five defendants were charged on September 26, 2002 with conspiring to lure and transport young Mexican girls into the United States under false pretenses, and then forcing them into prostitution, using physical violence and threats to maintain strict control over them. In addition to the five indicted defendants, three other traffickers entered guilty pleas to sex trafficking charges in September and October 2002. On the evening of trial, three of the five remaining defendants entered guilty pleas to various offenses, including conspiracy, sex trafficking by force, fraud or coercion, and conspiracy to obstruct justice. Having previously pled guilty, two of the defendants were sentenced to 210 months in prison (one of the longest prison terms to date for charges brought under the TVPA), while a third defendant was sentenced to 44 months in prison. As an offshoot of the original investigation, called Operation Sonic, Newark U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents conducted Operation Supersonic; on August 7, 2003 they executed ten search warrants, arrested 50 undocumented aliens, and seized \$27,000. These warrants were a result of a human smuggling investigation worked jointly with the New York Police Department and the U.S. Department of Labor. On October 21, 2003, defendant Pedro Garcia-Burgos pled guilty and was sentenced to 96 months imprisonment in the District of New York. On January 20, 2004, four additional subjects were charged for violations ranging from human smuggling to transportation in aid of a racketeering enterprise. [http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/wetf/us\\_assessment\\_2004.pdf](http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/wetf/us_assessment_2004.pdf) (see page 32)

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