

Anti-Trafficking News Bulletin

PRESIDENT BUSH ADDRESSES THE UNITED NATIONS, RAISES HUMAN TRAFFICKING

“Because we believe in human dignity, America and many nations have joined together to confront the evil of trafficking in human beings. We’re supporting organizations that rescue the victims, passing stronger anti-trafficking laws, and warning travelers that they will be held to account for supporting this modern form of slavery. Women and children should never be exploited for pleasure or greed, anywhere on Earth.” -- President George W. Bush, addressing the United Nations, September 21, 2004.



ANTI-TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE VISITS MEXICO

NEW AMERICAN-MEXICAN PARTNERSHIP FURTHERS PRESIDENT’S ANTI-TRAFFICKING INITIATIVE

From the first days of his administration, President George W. Bush made clear that human trafficking must be fought locally and internationally. Trafficking in persons is a global problem that requires a global solution. President Bush has twice raised the issue of trafficking in addresses to the General Assembly of the United Nations; he has called on other countries to improve their anti-trafficking efforts; and his administration has committed American resources and over \$50 million to help build effective anti-trafficking programs abroad.

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In early September, an American anti-trafficking team made up of representatives from the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) traveled to Mexico to begin implementing the President’s anti-trafficking initiative in that country. The trip laid the groundwork for the establishment of collaborative bi-national task forces that will target specific geographic areas of Mexico that have the most widespread sex trafficking and sex tourism.

In order to ensure that future task forces have the greatest possible impact, the team conducted an extensive study into the nature and scope of human trafficking in Mexico. The assessment was designed to determine the extent of the trafficking in persons problem in Mexico and study how government agencies and NGOs are currently responding to

the problems. The team paid particular attention to efforts to investigate potential cases, prosecute traffickers, and assist victims. Additionally, the study sought to identify obstacles to, and opportunities for, combating trafficking successfully. As part of this assessment, the team met with those already on the ground who are best positioned to evaluate the problem in the country, including representatives of Mexican government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and U.S. agencies presently at work in Mexico.

According to the Department of State 2004 Report on Trafficking in Persons, Mexico is a country of origin, transit, and destination for human traffickers. The report estimates that there are between 16,000 and 20,000 Mexican and Central American child sex victims in Mexico, and that additional trafficking victims in Mexico originate from the Caribbean, South America, Asia, and Eastern Europe. The report also indicates that while precise data is hard to quantify, many Mexican and Central American agricultural workers are victims of human trafficking into the United States. In addition, according to the International Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, the U.S. now lists Mexico as the number one center for the supply of young children to North America.



ON THE WEB ...
The State Department’s 2004 Trafficking in Persons Report is available at:

<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2004/>

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The Government of Mexico has identified its national intelligence agency, the Investigation and National Security Center (*Centro de Investigación y Seguridad Nacional* – CISEN), as the lead agency for matters of smuggling and trafficking. Additionally, Mexico's Federal Preventive Police (PFP), Attorney General's Office (PGR), and the immigration agency, INM, play important roles in investigating human trafficking. Non-governmental agencies also play key supporting roles in trafficking investigations. American authorities have established strong relationships with CISEN and other Mexican agencies. The two countries have worked closely on anti-human smuggling initiatives. In recent months, with the strong support of President's Bush's initiative, the two countries have expanded their cooperation into the area of human trafficking.

The American team found that NGOs and international organizations are involved in victim



protection in Mexico and they appear to be committed to understanding and addressing the problem. There has been good coordination between NGOs and the Mexican department of social services, (*Desarrollo Integral de la Familia* -- DIF). The team has encouraged Mexico to develop a broader team effort that will allow victim restoration efforts to support more effective investigation of trafficking rings and prosecutions of the traffickers. It also offered to assist with Mexican efforts to reform and tighten anti-trafficking laws.

The assessment team and the Mexican government reached agreement about the design of future bi-national efforts under President Bush's initiative. American and Mexican officials are now working out the details of deploying a permanent task force. In the coming months, the two countries will determine several critical questions related to site selection, training, team building and management.

NEW ANTI-TRAFFICKING TASK FORCES FORMED IN FLORIDA

Following President George W. Bush's lead, federal prosecutors and community leaders have joined together to form two new anti-trafficking task forces in Florida. The task forces, based in Miami and in Orlando, join numerous other task forces around the country including one based in Tampa. With these two new task forces, the government has greatly enhanced its ability to combat traffickers in Florida. Each task force is composed of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, faith-based organizations, and social service and healthcare providers. This blend of talents and expertise allows the task forces to bring an effective multi-disciplinary approach targeted to maximize community.

"Prosecutors, law enforcement officials, and community groups must work together to combat the traffickers and bring much needed assistance to their victims," said R. Alexander Acosta, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division. "As a native of Florida, I am personally gratified to know that an aggressive and comprehensive anti-trafficking plan is now in place throughout the state."

"Human trafficking is a horrific crime and grotesque violation of human rights," said Paul I. Perez, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Florida, who will lead the Orlando task force. "Victims are lured into these trafficking networks by promise of great pay as farm or domestic workers. When they get here, many find that not only are pay and conditions terrible, the unwritten job description might include prostitution, torture, beatings, starvation and death threats."

"Human trafficking crimes are heinous crimes that cannot be tolerated," said Marcos Daniel Jiménez, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida who will lead the Miami task force. "The mission of our Human Trafficking Task Force is to coordinate the investigation and prosecution of those who profit from the recruitment, transport, or sale of human beings, to provide assistance and training to law enforcement and service providers, and to raise public awareness of these crimes."

The new task forces will work to raise public awareness of human trafficking, to provide training to law enforcement and social service providers, and to aggressively prosecute and punish human traffickers. To that end,



the U.S. Attorney's Office in Orlando has already hosted an intensive training session designed to educate its attorneys and other task force members in how to identify instances of human trafficking and swiftly respond with prosecution for the traffickers and help for the victims. The training also sought to strengthen relationships among the various federal, state, local law enforcement and social service agencies working on the task force. In the Southern District of Florida, the Department of Justice and the United States Attorney's Office in Miami sponsored a similar training program.

The formation of the Florida task forces follows the first ever nation-wide conference on human trafficking, which was held earlier in the year in Tampa, Florida. The

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Paul I. Perez,
U.S. Attorney,
Middle District of Florida

conference featured addresses by the President and the Attorney General. Various members of the task forces participated.

Two notable recent prosecutions involving human trafficking victims in the Southern District of Florida include this year's prosecution against defendants Marie and Willie Pompee and the 2001 prosecution against the Ramos brothers. The Pompee prosecution shed light on the plight of so-called Restaveks, impoverished Haitian youngsters who work as virtual slaves for wealthier Haitian families and the difficulties caused to child victims. Marie and Willy Pompee were charged with harboring an undocumented alien, a child, who claimed that she was enslaved by the Pompees. The child, whose mother had once worked as a maid for members of the Pompee family in Haiti, came to the attention of school and law enforcement authorities when she was 12. The child asserted that she was an unpaid servant for the Pompees, made to sleep on the floor, and sexually assaulted by Willy Pompee Jr., the Pompees' son. Marie Pompee pleaded guilty to the harboring charge. Willie Pompee and Willy Pompey, Jr. remain fugitives.

In 2001, Juan and Ramiro Ramos were indicted on charges of involuntary servitude and harboring undocumented workers. The Ramos brothers were Florida labor contractors who supplied migrant farm laborers to citrus growers. Undocumented Mexican citizens were transported to Florida to work for the Ramos brothers. Once in Florida, as the court record reflects, the undocumented workers were forced to work until they had paid off their transportation debts. The defendants threatened the workers with violence if they left prematurely, and brutally beat a van driver and several of his employees to prevent them from taking workers away from the area. The Ramos brothers were convicted in 2002 and sentenced to 15 years in prison.

In addition to the Florida task forces, anti-trafficking task forces are already operating in Phoenix, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Newark, Houston, St. Louis, and Northern Virginia.



Marcos Daniel Jimenez,
U.S. Attorney,
Southern District of Florida

SOUTHERN FLORIDA'S HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

The Human Trafficking Task Force for the Southern District of Florida typifies the wide alliances built by anti-trafficking task forces across the country. It is comprised of thirty-one different federal, state, local agencies, and non-governmental organizations. They are:



- United States Attorney's Office;
- The United States Department of Health and Human Services;
- United States Department of Labor - Office of Inspector General;
- Federal Bureau of Investigation;
- Immigration and Customs Enforcement;
- State Attorney's Office - Miami-Dade County;
- State Attorney's Office - Key West;
- State Attorney's Office - West Palm Beach;
- Florida Department of Law Enforcement;
- Office of the State Attorney General;
- State Department of Business and Professional Regulations;
- Miami-Dade County Health Department;
- Miami-Dade County Police Department;
- Broward County Sheriff's Office;
- Highlands County Sheriff's Office;
- Indian River County Sheriff's Office;
- Martin County Sheriff's Office;
- Okeechobee County Sheriff's Office;
- Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office;
- St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office;
- City of Miami Police Department;
- Opa Locka Police Department;
- Pahokee Police Department;
- Pembroke Pines Police Department;
- Surfside Police Department;
- Massachusetts Mental Health Institute and Trauma Center;
- Coalition of Immokalee Workers;
- Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence;
- Florida Freedom Partnership;
- Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center; and
- The Salvation Army.

EXPERIENCED PROSECUTOR JOINS TRAFFICKING TEAM

Anne Milgram has worked as prosecutor for nearly 7 years, the last four of them in the Civil Rights Division's Criminal Section for three years. In September, Assistant Attorney General R. Alexander Acosta announced that Milgram would join the Division's trafficking team full time as a new Special Litigation Counsel for Human Trafficking. In this position she will play a leading role in the Justice Department's anti-trafficking efforts, including supervising and advising Civil Rights Division prosecutors who work on trafficking prosecutions. It is no small task; the Civil Rights Division currently has open over 180 active trafficking investigations and is pursuing federal charges in approximately 30 cases.

Milgram is a graduate of the New York University School of Law and has a master's degree in Social and Political Theory from the University of Cambridge. Following law school, Anne clerked for the Honorable Anne E. Thompson of the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey.

She then served as an Assistant District Attorney in the Manhattan DA's office for three and half years, where she prosecuted felony and misdemeanor crimes and was a member of the Domestic Violence Unit. She joined the Justice Department in January 2001.

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Since joining the Justice Department, Milgram has successfully prosecuted several notable trafficking cases, including two of the first prosecutions using the newly-enacted criminal provisions of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act

In the New Jersey sex slavery case, *United States v. Jimenez-Calderon*, Milgram secured the convictions of 6 defendants. They received sentences of up to 17 and a half years for their roles in the systematic commercial sexual exploitation of Mexican girls, some as young as 14.

In the New Hampshire "tree service" case, *United States v. Bradley*, Milgram prosecuted a common law husband



Ann Milgram addresses an audience at Regis College, in Weston, Massachusetts, on the problem of human trafficking.

Photo courtesy Ken McGagh/Courtesy MetroWest Daily News

and wife who used threats and violence to force Jamaican men to work for their tree cutting service business. Milgram secured sentences of five years and ten months for each defendant. In addition to being a tough prosecutor, Milgram's experiences have made her a much sought after lecture on the issue of trafficking. She has lectured and trained prosecutors, law enforcement officers, and representatives of nongovernmental agencies in the United States and overseas.

Milgram joins an outstanding trafficking team in the Criminal Section and brings great litigation experience and diplomatic skill to this sensitive and important position.

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION'S MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH SERVES AS MODEL FOR HUNGARIAN ANTI-TRAFFICKING EFFORTS

In mid-September Lou de Baca, the Civil Rights Division's Special Litigation Counsel for Trafficking, traveled to Budapest to attend the first Hungarian conference on human trafficking and domestic violence. De Baca joined the State Department's Laura Lederer to address conference participants about the innovative anti-trafficking approach pioneered by the Civil Rights Division. Later, de Baca served as a trainer during a retreat-style program that brought together prosecutors, police, judges, and representatives from nongovernmental organizations. The program addressed trafficking and domestic violence through problem-solving and case studies. The



participants also exchanged views on ways to improve Hungary's trafficking and domestic violence statutes to maximize their effectiveness.

The Hungarian conference was a follow up to an earlier meeting hosted by the Justice Department in April 2003. At that meeting, a small group of Hungarian women, both governmental officials and representatives of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), traveled to

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Washington for briefings. In April 2003 this program brought a small group of Hungarian women, both governmental officials and representative of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), to the Justice Department for briefings on the American approach to combating human trafficking. At these briefings, de Baca gave a presentation that highlighted the importance of close relationships between law enforcement and NGOs in trafficking cases. The Hungari-



Lou de Baca addresses an audience in Hungary on American anti-trafficking approaches.

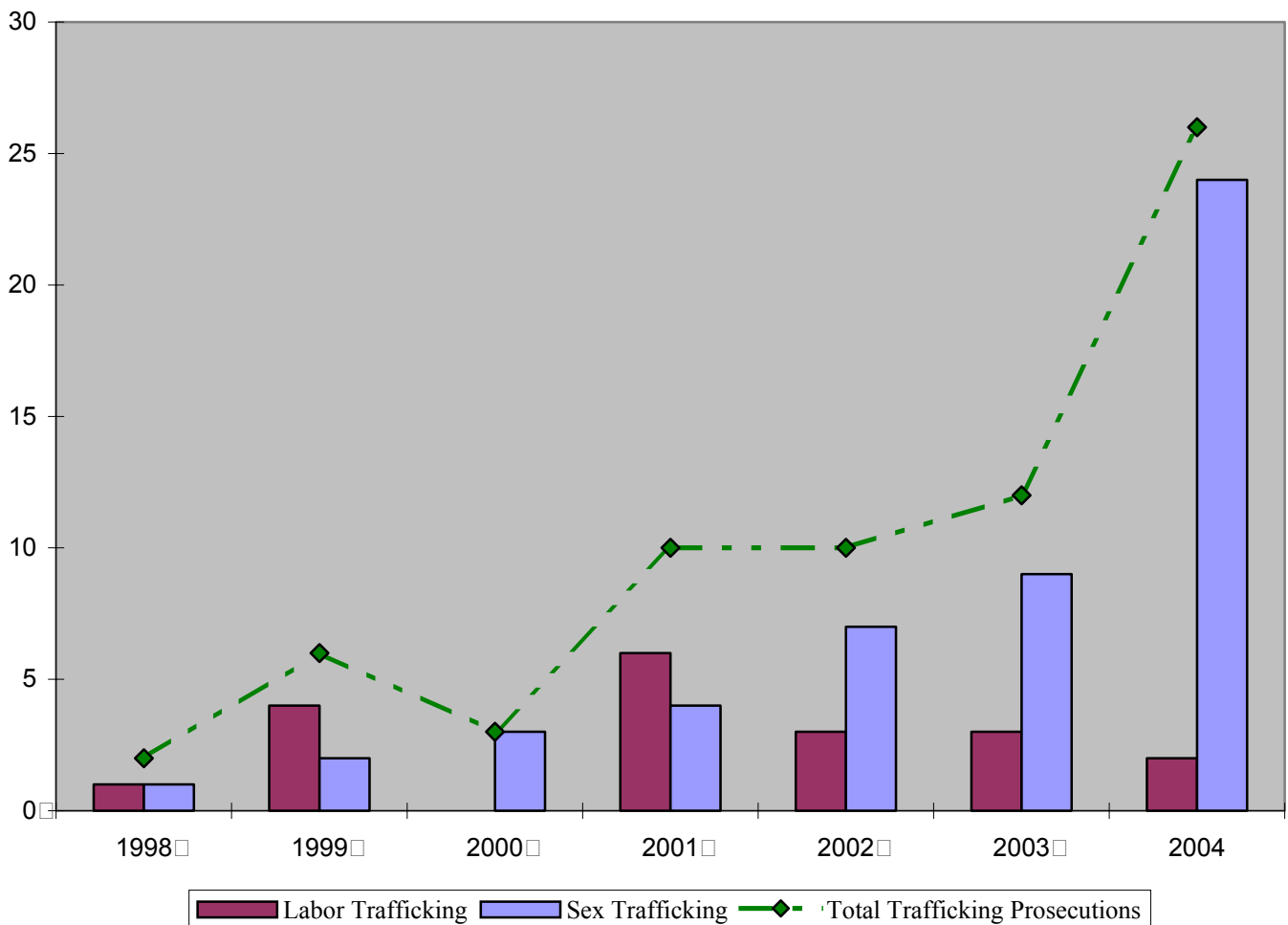
Photo courtesy of Vital Voices Global Partnership.

ans returned to their country convinced that such a relationship could change their approach to crime of trafficking. They started a working group based on the American model and were the driving force in organizing the Hungarian conference.

The Division continues to work with Hungarian officials and NGOs in order to support the anti-trafficking efforts in Hungary.

MAKING PROGRESS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE TRAFFICKERS

HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROSECUTIONS INITIATED BY FISCAL YEAR





RECENT NOTABLE PROSECUTIONS

United States v. Gates (D.D.C.)

On September 8, 2004, Gary Gates and Tamisha Heyward were sentenced for operating a child sex trafficking operation in Washington, DC. Gates, who had pled guilty on May 13, 2004, was sentenced to 178 months in prison and fined \$1,000. Heyward, who had pled guilty on June 23, 2004, was sentenced to 108 months in prison, 5 years supervised release and fined \$5,000. At the time of their guilty pleas, the two admitted to running the criminal scheme from their home, where they kept girls as young as 14 who they forced to perform multiple sex acts. Gates admitted to beating the girls who disobeyed him and to sexually assaulting many of his victims.

United States v. Pipkins (N.D. GA)

On August 2, 2004, the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals issued its ruling in *United States v. Pipkins*. Thirteen defendants had pleaded guilty and two were convicted at trial for their roles in a commercial sexual exploitation scheme. The Court upheld the convictions and sentences of the ringleaders, who had appealed. Between 1997 and 2001 the men held numerous girls and women against their will and forced them to perform repeated commercial sex acts between 1997 and 2001. At least one of their victims was as young as twelve. The Eleventh Circuit upheld the use of the federal racketeering statute against a loose confederation of self-described pimps, ruled that the evidence was sufficient to support a slavery conviction, and upheld the application of the criminal sexual abuse sentencing guideline to the case.

United States v. Love (N.D. Cal.)

On September 14, 2004, Theodore Love, Jr. was sentenced to 87 months in prison after pleading guilty to the sex trafficking of children. Specifically, he admitted to the sexual commercial exploitation of a 13-year-old girl.

Love, a long-time pimp, advertised his "Love Zone" escort service online. He met the 13-year old victim on a telephone dating line and corresponded with her by phone and e-mail. He recruited her and provided her with a fake ID saying she was 18 before sending her onto the street for prostitution.

United States v. Kang (E.D.N.Y.)

On September 27, a New York man was charged with sex trafficking, kidnapping, sexual abuse, obstruction of justice and other crimes in connection with his alleged participation in a sex trafficking scheme led by a Brooklyn couple. The man and the couple are both Korean immigrants.

On February 2, the couple and a Department of Homeland Security agent were charged for their roles in the trafficking scheme. The couple allegedly lured Korean women to New York City with promises of good jobs as hostesses in their nightclub. Instead, upon arriving in New York City, the women allegedly found themselves subjected to rapes and physical abuse.

According to the government, the couple forced their victims to entertain patrons at their nightclub and ordered them to submit to commercial sex acts when requested. They maintained their hold over their victims through violence, threats, and an extortionate debt. The Department of Homeland Security agent allegedly attempted to force one of the victims to get on a flight to South Korea to keep her from testifying against the couple.

On July 1, an additional defendant, also a Korean immigrant, was indicted for conspiracy to obstruct justice for attempting to conceal business records and other documents from the bar run by the couple. All five defendants are awaiting trial.



FEATURED NEXT ISSUE:

- Development in State Law
- Additional Task Forces Announced