

Anti-Trafficking News Bulletin

NATIONAL TRAFFICKING CONFERENCE EXPANDS TASK FORCE APPROACH

The Civil Rights Division has spearheaded a collaborative approach to anti-human trafficking enforcement by forming multi-disciplinary task forces in Philadelphia, Atlanta, Phoenix and Tampa. From July 15 to July 17, the Department of Justice will also host a national human trafficking conference in Tampa that will build and expand on these models.

The conference, which will feature Attorney General John Ashcroft and other senior Administration Officials, will bring together a diverse group of state and federal prosecutors, investigators and representatives from nongovernmental areas. It will draw participants from across the country, representing approximately 25 judicial districts.

These key players in the fight against trafficking will receive training in how they can increase their effectiveness by working together. The goal is for these players to return to their jurisdictions and form additional anti-trafficking task forces.

“Uncovering cases of captivity, rescuing the victims, and holding accountable the criminals responsible for their exploitation requires close cooperation,” said R. Alexander Acosta, Assistant Attor-

ney General for Civil Rights. “This conference builds on the lessons we’ve learned and is a major step forward in the fight against the traffickers.”

The conference will place special emphasis on the role of community members, including faith-based organizations. These individuals and groups are often ideally placed to identify victims but may not be aware of the trafficking laws and the protections they afford. Simple education can greatly enhance their ability to bring aid to the victims and justice to those who prey on the most vulnerable members of society.

Equally critical, the conference will train federal, state, and local law enforcement officers on how they can coordinate their efforts to maximum effect. Local law enforcement officers know their communities best, and often come across victims in their routine operations. Federal prosecutors, on the other hand, may have expertise in anti-trafficking enforcement and access to resources not commonly found in some communities. The conference will highlight cases where joint local and federal efforts have achieved impressive results.

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The Justice Department is committed to its pioneering multidisciplinary approach to anti-trafficking efforts. The success of this approach requires close cooperation with other federal agencies, state and local law enforcement agencies, components of foreign governments and a wide range of nongovernmental organizations. To this end, the Department has hosted or participated in 99 training sessions in FY 2004 alone. The overwhelming majority of these sessions focus exclusively on the issue of Human Trafficking.

This enormous outreach effort has allowed the Department to share its expertise and strengthen its bonds with a wide range of governmental and nongovernmental agencies and organizations. During FY 2004 alone, Justice Department personnel worked directly with the Canadian Department of Justice, law enforcement officials from the Slovak and Estonian Republics, Russian Customs and Interior Enforcement Agents, Catholic Charities, Lutheran Social Services, the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund, numerous state and local law enforcement agencies and many more organizations.

On September 30, 2003, speaking before the General Assembly of the United Nations, President Bush announced a \$50 million initiative to combat sex trafficking and sex tourism and he urged other nations to do their part in “fighting back an old evil.”

The President’s initiative presented an unprecedented opportunity to build international partnerships dedicated to aggressively targeting trafficking operations around the globe. The Senior Policy Operating Group on Trafficking in Persons, which brings together representatives of numerous federal departments and agencies, took up the President’s challenge. After a series of meetings, the group identified specific areas and countries that would most benefit from the initiative. Drawing on the varying experiences of its members, the group selected Brazil, Mexico, Moldova, India, Cambodia, Tanzania, Sierra Leone, and Indonesia as priority countries.

The victim-centered, multidisciplinary task force approach, developed by the Civil Rights Division for domestic law enforcement, will provide the model for these international efforts. Each priority country will work with United States officials to establish an individualized task-force-based program, designed with attention to that country’s constitution, legal framework, and specific needs. These task forces will investigate human trafficking

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and related crimes such as child sex tourism schemes. They will address both the prosecution of perpetrators and the rescue of victims and their placement in secure and restorative settings. They will also provide training to other groups that can augment their effectiveness, such as nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and government agencies responsible for border security.

Assessment teams from the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will travel to the host countries to inventory existing capacities within the local criminal justice systems. The result of each assessment will aid planners in making the most of anti-trafficking plans and capabilities already in place. Critically, the task forces will employ proven law enforcement management techniques to combat the official corruption and police complicity that have hobbled previous anti-trafficking efforts in some countries.

Certain task forces will include a border intervention component devoted to training border police and NGO border advocates. These local players will be encouraged to work together and to forge additional partnerships with local shelters that can provide immediate placement for victims rescued at border crossings. DOJ and DHS will assist border police to gather evidence of smuggling and trafficking and other immigration violations. The program will further develop relationships between the host government and prosecutors in neighboring countries in order to support the prosecution of accused traffickers who operate on both sides of borders.

Where statutes allow, an asset forfeiture component will provide training and recommendations to local criminal investigators and prosecutors regarding how to best use forfeiture of buildings and facilities most effectively against the traffickers.

The United States Agency for International Development and the Department of Labor will lend their expertise on certain aspects of the victim-centered approach to anti-trafficking efforts. They will advise in the design of restorative care centers dedicated to assisting victims rescued by the enforcement components of the task forces. This will provide the necessary security for the victims and will enable caregivers to empower the victims to cooperate with the investigation and prosecution.

Finally, the task forces will focus on Americans and other nationals who travel to destination countries for sex tourism. Cracking down on sex tourism helps eliminate the conditions in which the purchase and exploitation of children in the sex trade becomes possible.

These high profile anti-trafficking efforts will allow participating countries the opportunity to visibly demonstrate their commitment to combating the plague of trafficking. In partnership with the United States, such a commitment can effectively and visibly turn the tide in areas where trafficking has previously been permitted to flourish. As source and destination countries learn to work more closely together, prosecutions of entire international criminal networks become dramatically more effective. With the traffickers on notice that their crimes will no longer go unpunished, these efforts will serve to deter future crime, and ultimately lower the rate of victimization.

GROUNDBREAKING ANTI-TRAFFICKING TRAINING AT FBI ACADEMY

The Federal Bureau of Investigation held its first trafficking-specific training for special agents at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia from June 10-17. Forty-five special agents assigned to civil rights units in field divisions around the country convened to learn about the new investigative tools and techniques available to fight trafficking and slavery. Highlights of the training included primers on the Trafficking Victims Protection Act's criminal and victim protection provisions and the interplay with pre-existing servitude law; money laundering; international investigations; and victim interview techniques.

The training featured presentations by several people with first hand experiences in the battle against trafficking. Trafficking survivor Julia Gabriel and Laura Germino, the NGO representative who has helped her since her escape from her tormentors, provided the special agents with a unique view into the horrors of trafficking. Civil

Rights Division prosecutors Lou de Baca, Mark Kappelhoff, Susan French, and Robert Moossy also taught at the training, focusing on investigation techniques and proactive opportunities for dismantling trafficking operations.

"This training was a great opportunity for some of the veteran agents to sharpen their approach, and for newcomers to this area to gain from their experiences," said Jose Vargas, Chief of the Civil Rights Unit at FBI Headquarters. "The participants gained an understanding of how to aggressively investigate these tough cases while keeping victims' needs in the forefront."

Also attending as special guests of the FBI were representatives from the Virginia State Police, the U.S. Department of Defense, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

ANTI-TRAFFICKING EFFORTS IN TAMPA, FLORIDA "HEAT UP"

On June 9, 2004, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, Alex Acosta and United States Attorney for the Middle District of Florida, Paul Perez were joined by representatives from the Department of Health and Human Services at a press conference announcing that Tampa would host a multidisciplinary anti-trafficking task force. Tampa became the fourth city to host such a task force, joining Philadelphia, Atlanta, and Phoenix. One hallmark of the campaign is aggressive and proactive outreach in the search for victims.

"We are keenly aware that we cannot wait for trafficking victims to find us," Acosta said. "Victims are not likely to pick up a telephone and call the FBI or the Department of Justice. They're fearful, they're disoriented, they're far from their country, and they're far from their families. They don't speak the language. They don't have documents."

To carry out the initiative announced by the Acosta and Perez, the United States Attorney's Office and the Criminal Section hosted a two-day anti-trafficking training. Deputy Chief

Bill Yeomans, Special Litigation Counsel Lou deBaca, Trial Attorneys Susan French and Adriana Vieco and Victim Witness Coordinator Lorna Grenadier served as faculty, joined by FBI Special Agent Ed Geiger, Assistant United States Attorney Douglas Molloy, Laura Germino from the Coalition of Immokolee Workers, and Ana Rodriguez, formerly of the Collier County Sheriff's Office. State, federal, and local law enforcement and child protective services workers joined immigrants rights groups, faith-based organizations, and legal services providers attending the training session.

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION PROSECUTOR RETURNS TO SOUTH AFRICA TO ASSIST IN ANTI-TRAFFICKING EFFORTS

Civil Rights Division Prosecutor Hillary Axam played a key role as a subject matter expert for an anti-trafficking training in Pretoria, South Africa on June 22 and 23, 2004. The conference was hosted by the National Prosecuting Authority of the Republic of South Africa, and was facilitated by Shared Hope International. Attendees included government officials, prosecutors, law enforcement officers, and representatives of non-governmental organizations, who came together to develop and implement anti-trafficking strategies following enactment of new anti-trafficking laws. Axam spoke on "Prevention, Protection, and Prosecution" in the United States

Prior to joining the Civil Rights Division in 2001, Axam completed a Fulbright Fellowship studying comparative Constitutional Criminal Procedure in Johannesburg. In the Criminal Section, Ms. Axam has prosecuted several notable sex trafficking and involuntary servitude cases, including United States v. Jimenez-Calderon, in which she recently obtained sentences of up to 210 months incarceration and an order that the defendants pay over \$135,000 to their victims.

DEPUTY ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL PROVIDES TRAINING IN SWITZERLAND AND JAPAN

Brad Schlozman, Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, traveled to Switzerland and Japan to provide training and consultation for government officials on trafficking in persons. The purpose of the program was to provide Swiss audiences with an overview of the U.S. perspective on trafficking in persons, specifically the Civil Rights Division's pioneering victim-centered multidisciplinary approach to the problem.

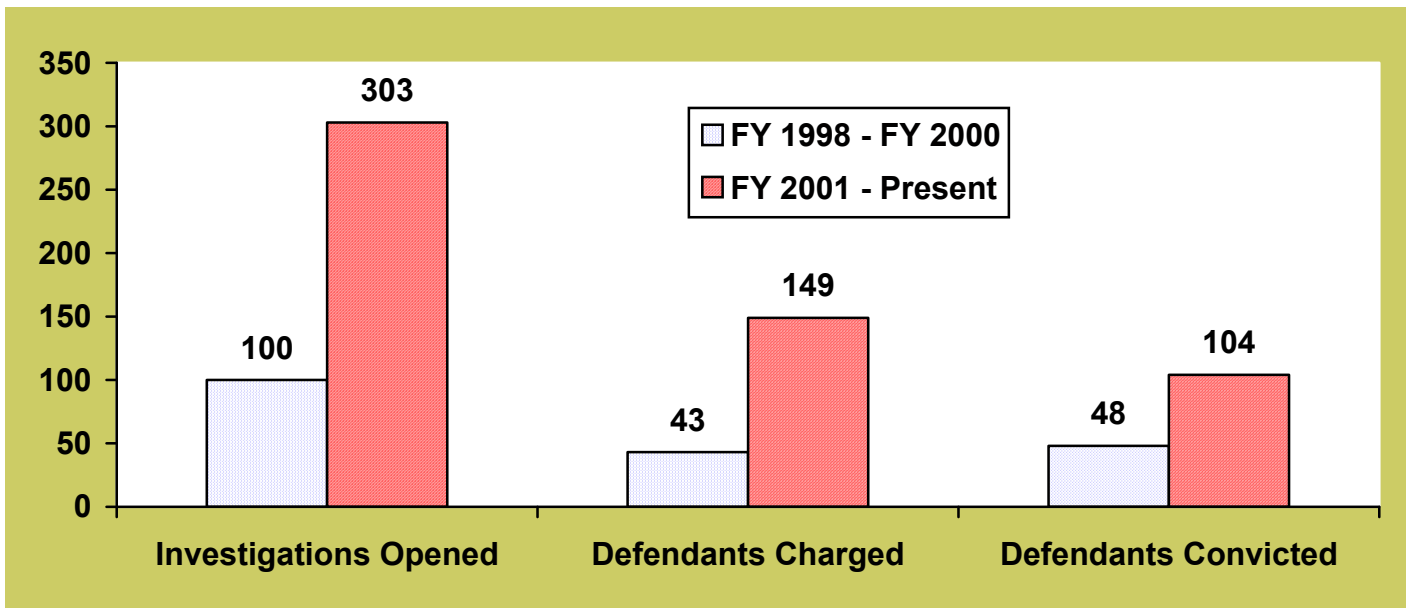
Schlozman briefed the Swiss National Trafficking Task Force on U.S. policies and strategies to proactively combat trafficking in persons, including prosecution of traffickers. Particular emphasis was placed on how the U.S. views and implements local, national, and international cooperative efforts to combat trafficking. Schlozman also described U.S. initiatives to protect and assist trafficking victims and help them reintegrate into society.

In Japan, Schlozman met with senior officials from the Ministries of Justice and Foreign Affairs as well as representatives of numerous nations throughout the Asian region. In his remarks, he focused primarily on the consequences of trafficking on other criminal enterprises.



HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROSECUTIONS

The Department of Justice has dramatically increased human trafficking prosecutions in recent years.





RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN NOTABLE PROSECUTIONS

UNITED STATES V. JIMENEZ-CALDERON (D. N.J.)

On June 9, 2004, in Newark, New Jersey, Maritzana Diaz Lopez was sentenced to 27 months in prison to be followed by five years supervised release, having previously pleaded guilty to sex trafficking. The court also ordered Lopez and four of her co-defendants to make payments to their victims totaling \$135,240. Previously, defendant Pedro Burgos was sentenced to 96 months imprisonment, defendant Angel Ruiz was sentenced to 44 months in prison, Librada Jimenez-Calderon and Antonia Jimenez-Calderon (pictured) were each sentenced to 210 months in prison, and defendant Sergio Farfan was sentenced to 16 months in prison.

Each defendant played a role in a scheme to lure and transport young Mexican girls into the United States under false pretenses for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation. Held captive in a Plainfield, New Jersey brothel, the girls were forced to spend their waking hours, seven days a week, performing multiple commercial sex acts. The defendants used physical violence and threats to maintain strict control over the girls. The girls ranged in age from 14 to 18 years old.



UNITED STATES V. NAOVASAISRI (D.N.J.)

On May 21, 2004, defendant Nantawat Naovaisai was sentenced to 17 ½ years in prison following his conviction on charges of recruiting and transporting Thai females into the United States for purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and attempting to murder an FBI Agent investigating the case. Previously, co-defendant Naree Hanlert was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment and three years supervised release for her guilty plea to conspiracy to smuggle undocumented foreign nationals into the country, and defendant Ratiporn Tantirojankitkan was sentenced to 17 months imprisonment and two years supervised release for her guilty plea to this same charge. Two other defendants are fugitives.



UNITED STATES V. PARSONS (W.D. OKLA.)

On June 14, 2004, five defendants entered pleas to charges arising from Operation Stormy Nights, a child prostitution investigation. Defendant Michael Wayne Thomas pleaded guilty to transporting a juvenile to Pennsylvania for purposes of forcing the juvenile to engage in sexual activity on two occasions, and to committing an act of violence in furtherance of that scheme. Defendant Jermaine Dion Washington pleaded guilty to transporting a juvenile to Denver for purposes of commercial sexual activity. Defendants DeCory Williams and Tiffone Southwell pleaded guilty to transporting a juvenile to Miami for purposes of prostitution and defendant Jacinto White pleaded guilty to interstate travel to Pennsylvania in furtherance of a commercial sexual exploitation scheme. Other indictments returned on the same date charged four additional defendants. Three defendants are set for trial and one defendant remains a fugitive.

UNITED STATES V. LAKIREDDY (N.D. CAL.)

On June 7, 2004, Prasad Lakireddy was sentenced to one-year home detention, 5 years probation, and 300 hours of community service, and ordered to pay a \$20,000 fine for his role in his father's scheme to bring Indian immigrants to the United States for exploitation. Five defendants have been convicted of bringing numerous young girls into the United States to work in his businesses as a ruse to place them in sexual bondage. The main defendant, Lakireddy Bali Reddy, one of the largest landlords in Berkeley, California, pleaded guilty in March, 2001, to trafficking women and girls into the United States to place them in sexual servitude, and on June 19, 2001, was sentenced to 97 months in prison and ordered to pay \$2,000,000 restitution to the victims.

UNITED STATES V. GONZALEZ-GARCIA (D.N.J.)

On May 25, 2004, in Newark, NJ, defendants Domingo Gonzalez-Garcia, Evodio Gonzalez-Garcia and Oscar Romero-Gonzalez were sentenced to 3 years in prison to be followed by 3 years supervised release. They each admitted to playing a role in luring a young Mexican woman and transporting her into the United States with the purpose of forcing her to engage in commercial sex acts.

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Task Force, from Page 1

Beyond building task forces, the conference will also provide training in particular aspects of contemporary human trafficking. One panel will focus specifically on the plight of children trafficked into commercial sexual exploitation. The panel will highlight examples of how law enforcement agencies and others have proactively uncovered cases of child trafficking and exploitation.

“Human traffickers rely on the fear and isolation of their victims, who rarely will seek help from authorities,” said Acosta. “It is our job to be the voice for the voiceless. If victims cannot come to us, we must learn how to go to them.”

IN THE NEWS



In Philadelphia, Phoenix and Atlanta, workers at social-service agencies such as Catholic Social Services will be trained to spot and care for victims, who will be encouraged to contact local and federal law enforcement. Victims who help investigators track down their traffickers will be offered help from food stamps to Medicaid. But the big prize will be a special visa allowing them to remain in the United States indefinitely. They can be eligible for the visas whether or not their cooperation leads to a conviction.

The approach marks a sharp turn for U.S. law enforcement, which has treated trafficking victims as criminals for entering the country illegally. But President Bush, Attorney General John Ashcroft and Health and Human Services Director Tommy Thompson promote the enlightened view that trafficked people are crime victims deserving aid. That change is reflected in the pilot's name: "Rescue and Restore."

- An Excerpt from an Editorial in [The Philadelphia Inquirer](#), Praising the Victim-Centered Approach to Combating Trafficking

The conference will continue to stress the Civil Rights Division's "victim-centered" approach. One panel will focus exclusively on victims' needs, underscoring that all parties in the fight against trafficking must keep the victim at the forefront of their efforts. While victim services providers perform crucial work, law enforcement officers and prosecutors also must remain acutely sensitive to the health and safety of victims.

At the end of the three-day conference, the attendees will have the tools to return to their communities and redouble their efforts against the traffickers by establishing multi-disciplinary task forces and otherwise building on the proven techniques developed by the Division.

NOTABLE PROSECUTIONS, from Page 5

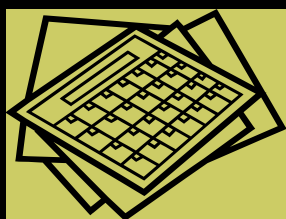
UNITED STATES V. VALLE-MALDONADO (C.D. CAL.)

Two defendants in the Valle-Maldonado case have been adjudicated. On June 16, 2004, defendant Juan Gregorio Martinez-Vasquez was convicted unlawfully smuggling foreign nationals into the United States. On June 9, co-defendant Jose Velasquez-Garcia pleaded guilty to trafficking several women into the country for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation.

Trial for the remaining two defendants, Jenny Valle-Maldonado and Javier Sandoval-Garcia, is scheduled to begin on August 17. The charges against Valle and Sandoval allege that, between August 2003 and March 2004, the defendants arranged for women, including two minors, to be smuggled from Mexico into the United States where they were subjected to commercial sexual exploitation at massage parlors throughout the Los Angeles area. Allegedly, Valle threatened some of the women that if they stopped working for her, their relatives in Mexico would be harmed.

FEATURED NEXT MONTH:

JULY



A Report on the Anti-Trafficking Conference