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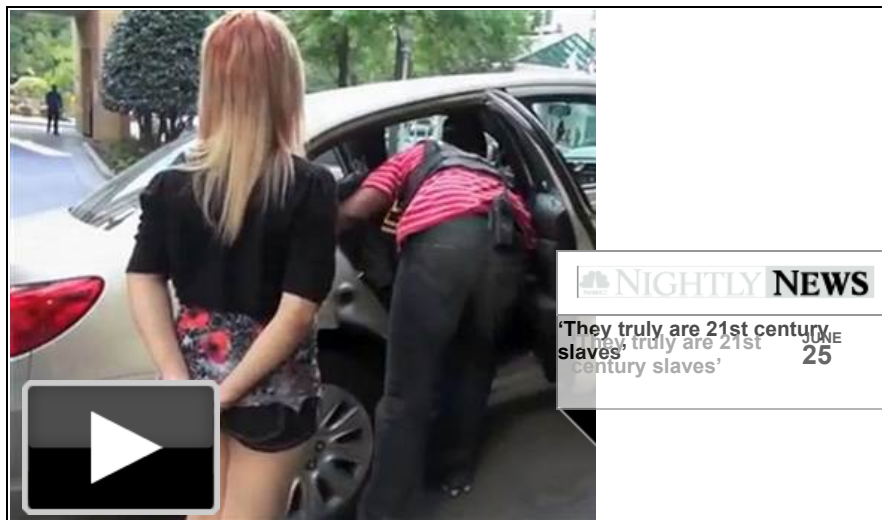
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79 teen prostitutes taken off the streets in nationwide crackdown, FBI says



FBI Operation Cross Country has rescued 79 children, victims of child prostitution and arrested 104 pimps nationwide.

By Jeff Black, msnbc.com

A three-day sweep by police agencies across the country has led to the removal of 79 teenagers from a life of prostitution and the arrest of more than a hundred pimps, the FBI reported on Tuesday.

Hundreds of FBI agents and thousands of state and local law-enforcement officers targeted the

Internet as well as such places as truck stops, casinos and "tracks" where prostitutes are known to walk the street in the crackdown.

The teenagers -- 77 girls and two boys -- ranged in age from 13 to 17. They are being held in custody until they could be placed with child welfare organizations, Reuters reported.

The FBI said 104 suspected pimps were arrested during sting operations in 57 U.S. cities including Atlanta, Sacramento, and Toledo, Ohio.



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It was the sixth nationwide sweep -- called Operation Cross Country -- organized as part of the FBI's Innocence Lost National Initiative to address the growing problem of child sex trafficking in the United States.

Information gleaned from those arrested often uncovers organized prostitution rings, the FBI said.

"It is clear that child prostitution and sex trafficking do not just occur somewhere else on the other side of the world," Ernie Allen, president of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, a partner in the effort, said in a news release. "These insidious crimes are occurring in American cities and the victims are American kids."

The average age of a child targeted for prostitution in the United States is between 11 and 14 years old, FBI assistant director Kevin L. Perkins told the Senate Judiciary Committee in March.

Police: Mother forced daughter into prostitution

The youngest victim ever recovered through Innocence Lost was 9, FBI spokesman Jason Pack told msnbc.com.

Since 2003, Innocence Lost task forces and work groups have taken more than 2,200 children off the streets, leading to 1,017 convictions, the FBI said.

Perhaps the highest profile case was the 2005 "Precious Cargo" investigation that targeted pimps involved in sex trafficking of children and female adults at trucks stops in Harrisburg, Pa. More than 150 victims were identified, 45 of whom had been identified as being exploited as children. In all, 18 people were indicted on federal crimes in that investigation. The ring leaders, Terrance Williams, aka "Sleazy T," and Eric Kays, aka "International Ross," were both sent to prison for more than 35 years.

People can report suspected sexual exploitation of children at cybertipline.com, or call 1-800-843-5678.

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jhaskins20018

77?? What a complete joke! Try 777,777 prostitutes who everyday and in every way because their insatiable urges lead them to this profession weather they be 13 or 30 or 60 years of age. And to the Pimps..What a real joke. Nothing more than a sorry azz excuse for men who are more woman than they are men and should be charged with child abuse and sentence to jail for life. Lust is as old as history itself and women and men are both slaves to this curse. What do you do with these 77 girls when you release them? Enroll them as nuns? What about the legal brothels in Texas and Louisiana, do you raid them and lock up the whore there too? This whole society is headed to hell and I hope these 77 girl find redemption in God cause that's their only hope in not going back to the streets.

#215 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 11:30 AM EDT

REPLY   

ptownz

You need some serious psychiatric help.

#215.1 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 11:36 AM EDT

jhaskins20018

ME, you and a whole bunch more can use psychiatric help, but most psychiatrist can't even help themselves cause they make us believe the same S we accept day in and day out.

#215.2 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 11:45 AM EDT

ptownz

"because their insatiable urges" ????????????

"make us believe the same S we accept day in and day out."

That would be the \$\$ system and all the institutions controlling the majority for the 1% and prostitution is just another symptom of it.

#215.3 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 11:48 AM EDT



REPLY

Gunny262

Some good points here . a pimp using underage kids is out on bond in 12 hrs or less, a person caught smoking a doobie spends serious jail time. take these pimps out back and put 2 behind their ear, oh wait obumbo wont like that because they are black. i'd be happy to provide the bullets and take care of these slugs.i saw where 30 mil Americans smoke weed. Wouldnt it be smarter to legalize it, regulate and tax it rather then spend billions trying to irradiate it ? our gov makes no sense. why do politicians think they are above us with specail retirements and better benefits and health care. the bastards work for us , not the other way around

#216 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 11:33 AM EDT

REPLY 2



jhaskins20018

Everything you say makes complete sense except the " Black " thing. A pimp is a pimp is a pimp and they are all from every nationally and they all need to be shot and trust me, Obama has two beautiful daughters and a adorable wife and he too would be the first, along with me and you to load that weapon and blow these sorry azz pimps to hell, but as long as society condones the existence of this profession they will always exist as it is a business. Ask any republican and he, she will tell you they have a wifw at home and a whore on the side.

#216.1 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 11:38 AM EDT



REPLY

Wolfmanhuck

I'm not going to argue if 17 is an adult or not. The sad part is that these girls are underaged and for the most part are not doing this willing. Open your eyes people, child sex trafficking is here and prevelant in the United States. Take off the blinders and see the dark side of the country. Most of these girls are run-aways who were taken in by a pimp and used. Stop bickering about government and your petty political jokes. Children are suffering out there while most of us live in our nice homes with nice cars. Put your pride down and you polotics. No amount of money is to much to try to help these people.

#217 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 11:33 AM EDT

REPLY



ptownz

The oldest way to make money to survive , just more propaganda and lies to make you feel good about your self because that's all that really maters anyways right ?

#218 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 11:33 AM EDT

REPLY



ptownz

"yourself" "matters" correction.

#218.1 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 11:39 AM EDT



REPLY

Antonio Vanzetti

What a Shame.

#219 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 11:34 AM EDT

REPLY



tuesdaystudio

two years ago a girl in Florida enjoying her vacation at an very expensive resort did an interview for TV and parents seen her interview she has been missing since she was eleven she was fourteen had her own car and a time share and was going to

school and doig johns as work it worked for her until she was found out

I want a time share and and new car and to vacation in miami at a resort I busted my ass off just to take a vacation in my back yard my resort was a hammock hanging between two post...

#220 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 11:35 AM EDT

REPLY   

htrodr2

This whole thing is just sad!!! At the age of 11 the farthest thing from my mind was sex. These poor girls will have emotional issues the rest of their lives, not to mention probably health issues. I hope, if any were actually kidnapped that they will return to their family.

#221 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 11:35 AM EDT

REPLY  2  

3dgb

Disappointed and ashamed. I can see the reason for your screen name. I'm discusted by your post. What human being isn't worth a dollar!? You'd allow these kids to be trashed, and have their lives trashed because it's not worth the money spent to save them?! That's one of the biggest problems we have right now, people putting the almighty dollar before human life. If this was your daughter, how much would you pay to save her life? 20 bucks cover it? 25 and she's on her own? You can not put a dollar amount on human life. If any of your kids end up lost and abused like these kids, you can keep your precious money, we'll take care of them for you. Someone needs to, and it obviously wouldn't be you. I'm not sure what's more discussing, what people are doing to these children, or your attitude about your precious money. I'd be disappointed and ashamed too if I were you.

#222 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 11:36 AM EDT

REPLY  2  

tuesdaystudio

even in that business there has to be a change over

#223 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 11:36 AM EDT

REPLY   

ORIN-1919561

If any of these kids were yours, you would be happy that they spent the money to get them back.

These are just kids, and the pimps fill them with drugs so they will do what they want.

I would hope that they beat the crap out of the pimps when they arrested them.

They will have a fine time in prison,as most of the inmates are parents.

#224 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 11:37 AM EDT

REPLY  1  

thinkingman-2605299

If they had the moral willpower our nations lawmakers could make life so tough on the pimps the allure of making money this way would be greatly reduced. For example, if a pimp served hard time for the first offense, say roughly 5-10 years and heavy fines, that would help. If they get back in the game after their release, give them the death penalty.

We need to treat this crime as being what it is.....human trafficking, which is just a fancy term for "slavery".

#225 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 11:37 AM EDT

REPLY  1  

Getmadstaymad

These pimps are guilty of Child slavery, why are they slapped on the wrist then set loose? They should get 25 yrs for this, maybe if we had the sentences we used to have we'd be a lot better off. Its kidnapping. 25 yrs is what they deserve. Stop arresting the Johns. If the prostitutes werent allowed to roam the streets then men wouldnt be tempted. I dont care if its called the oldest occupation. Put these prostitutes in prison for 5 years per pop and I guarantee you prostitution will dry up and blow away.

#226 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 11:38 AM EDT

REPLY  1  

Terri Lee

child abuse and exploitation is another lower level than prostitution, but seriously even with prostitution, there is no need for it today, except for psychos and low life losers.

it's not like men are stuck in the wild west with no women around, it's truly that there is something wrong with them as to why they can't get a date or be in a normal or healthy relationship, like psychos and serial killers who frequent(and murder)prostitutes.

#226.1 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 12:00 PM EDT



REPLY

Paul-1369685

Teens and even younger children are having sex wether they are getting paid or not. What's not to like about bringing home a paycheck as well as unwanted sores, blisters and bastard infants?

#227 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 11:43 AM EDT



Clicker-785500

You think these little girls are getting paid? Like the pimps are setting up bank accounts or 401K's for them? They're being used, you sick freak! And when they are all used up, the pimp will toss them aside and move on to a new little kid.

#227.1 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 11:57 AM EDT



REPLY

calnomad

Were any congressmen and women and our president and/or his cabinet arrested for prostitution? Hell, they are always for sale. They could bust them for being prostitutes, their staff for pimping and the lobbyists for being the johns.

#228 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 11:44 AM EDT



Terri Lee

To JEM; what a sick irrational freak you are, I hope your computer is raided by the fbi, you go to jail and are beaten to death.

people only lived to be in their mid 20's a mere century ago if lucky enough, you are a moron. there is no justification or rationalization for victimizing/abusing/molesting/raping chidren. children do not want to have sex with you, you sick freak, they are forced into it, it is not natural and truly wasn't back then either.

how can any of you tolerate someone like that on here without notifying the fbi of your concerns?

#229 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 11:45 AM EDT



ptownz

It's all about the \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$.

#230 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 11:45 AM EDT



Laos Deo

Good job guy's and gal's of law enforcement. Now feed them and find them meaningful jobs in America. Man will not stand by and watch his family starve. Endorsing Global economics and outsourcing American jobs will bring on these creative alternatives for people to survive.

Keep up the good work.

#231 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 11:47 AM EDT



car31jou

The headline should have said 79 teen age slaves taken off the streets. I also agree that the john's of these teen age slaves should be identified, prosecuted and published as well as being put on the pedophile list. The biggest problem is that this is just the tip of the iceberg.

These "pimps" should be executed actually "pimps" in general should be executed. The world has more than its share of slim balls, we should start getting rid of some of them. Slim balls usually beget slime balls. The offspring of these people usually do not have a chance of growing up as law abiding citizens. Be sides getting rid of them it would help with the overpopulation problem.

#232 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 11:50 AM EDT

REPLY   

Geesh-3234376

Disappointed,

I don't appreciate being called a dumb ass or a moron for having a heart and caring about the well being of children.

This article is about underage minors, not adult prostitution. So your first comment had nothing to do with what this is all about.

Good luck in life. Your arrogance and name-calling will get you far, I'm sure.

#233 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 11:50 AM EDT

REPLY   

Chella13

"79 teen prostitutes taken off the streets in nationwide crackdown" I think it is awesome that victims of sex traffic are being saved from the streets, however, the media needs to change their wording on headline news. Teen prostitutes... No, it is sex traffic victims, slaves, 79 teens death sentenced to work for pimps! Not prostitutes. When one reads "prostitutes", we immediately assume and relate that these teens are there because they want to be there. In no way, size, shape, or form is this accurate. Sex traffic is all around and has been around for many years, and thankfully now something is being done to stop this. But we need to urge that the media changes their verbatim... As you read into the article they do specify the issue at hand, but the headline being what catches our eye, should state it clearly in black in white that these are not prostitutes, but slaves of the 21st century.

#234 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 11:51 AM EDT

REPLY   

ptownz

"the act in itself is a vice , prosecution would be double jeopardy" D.Stanhope

#235 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 11:57 AM EDT

REPLY   

JennyLedge

I am so disappointed in the way this article is titled, making the teens look like perpetrators. If you read through to...oh, about paragraph 4...you will find that these children were trafficked. They didn't have a choice. Regardless of the circumstance that brought them there, they were being exploited first by their captors, now by the media. Thank you to the FBI for scratching the surface of something insidious. Now could we please help these children heal and recognize the horror of modern day slavery?

#236 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 11:59 AM EDT

REPLY  **1**  

ptownz

"Regardless of the circumstance that brought them there" ??????????????????????????????

\$

"modern day slavery" ... is perpetual and never ending debt.

#236.1 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 12:01 PM EDT

REPLY 

Koatz

The teenagers -- 77 girls and two boys -- ranged in age from 13 to 17. They are being held in custody until they could be placed with child welfare organizations, Reuters reported.

One can hardly categorize a 17 y/o as a child. Also, I bet - if asked - each one of those "victims" would prefer life-on-the-streets to being held in custody until they can be placed with a child-welfare organization.

Obviously, the real teens shouldn't have a choice in the matter, but those on the cusp of adulthood should not be treated like they are incapable of deciding. Of course, with "our" generous help, they should be able to establish independent lives free from this type of exploitation.

#237 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 12:19 PM EDT

REPLY   

car31jou

Koatz---- Consider yourself lucky that you, as a 17 +- year old, have not been forced into a situation where you had no control over what you could do, where if you didn't obey you could be beaten (tortured) or even murdered. This happens every day to people who are older. I have know people who lived in fear for several years for abusive relationships out of fear.

#237.1 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 1:13 PM EDT

REPLY 

greg berry

Just proves how dumb our Government really is. If the Government had ordered the Secret Service to collect a bunch of prostitutes, they would have have five times the number in less then one day. Would have saved us millions wasted on the FBI and the other FUMBLE BUMBS.

#238 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 12:19 PM EDT

REPLY   

Unrepentant Conservative

A whole 79 nation-wide. Wow, what a wonderful waste of tax dollars.

If you want to fix teenage prostitution, do what every other modern nation has done - legalize it for adult participants, license them, and collect the tax revenue. It would dry up a lot of the demand andmake it much easier to monitor and catch those that are under-age.

#239 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 12:20 PM EDT

REPLY  2  

Arizona Tumbleweed

What if they saved ONE child? Would that have been a waste of time or money?

#239.1 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 12:33 PM EDT

2  

Clicker-785500

I hardly think the freaks that are preying on these little girls (and boys) would visit a legal brothel. As far as "waste of tax dollars", THESE are things the government is supposed to be doing. I would rather the government uses my tax dollars to catch these slavers instead of giving it to companies like Solyndra.

#239.2 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 1:59 PM EDT

1  

**NormaJeana**

Arizona Tumbleweed- What if we saved one child by closing down the school system- where more children are sexually molested by teachers than were arrested in this sting operation with 2,500 cops? The New York Daily News reported onJune 6, 2012, "An upsurge in sexual misconduct allegations is rocking city schools — with more

than 150 complaints against staffers in April and May alone, official data show." And there were 31 teachers arrested in the first 5 months of the year,, in NYC alone! And how about all the kids we could save if we shut down after school athletic programs so that no more pedophile coaches could molest children for decades before being caught and punished? And surely you would agree to shut down or prevent children from entering churches where pedophile priests are apt to rape children... if it would save one child, right?

How can anyone think that by arresting consenting adults for prostitution that you will save ANYONE? Wouldn't you want to save those children and spouses from violent husbands in the reported over 12 MILLION incidents of intimate partner violence every year? Shouldn't we arrest all husbands on the outside chance it will save one child or battered wife? Better yet, let's abolish marriage to protect those wives and children. And given that there are over 80,000 reported rapes (including rapes of children) each year for which the cops manage to apprehend about 20% nationwide, let's arrest ALL adult women who have sex with men- consenting or not- to save one child or grown woman from being raped. Because we know that is what works, right?

#239.3 - Tue Jun 26, 2012 5:59 PM EDT



REPLY

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Jeff Black

I'm a senior writer and editor at msnbc.com working on the news team.

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