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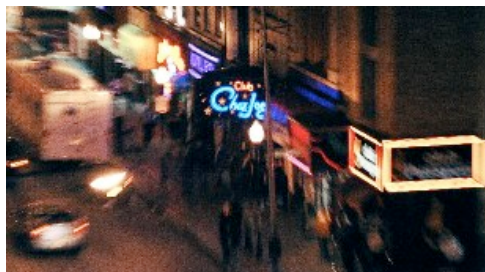


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NOVEMBER 11, 2011

Feds file more charges in Block trafficking case



Federal authorities in El Paso, Texas have filed additional charges against 10 people from Baltimore being held in a trafficking case involving The Block and strip clubs across the country. Prosecutors are calling the case a "forced prostitution" scheme.

The alleged leader, Alarcon Allen "Tha Don" Wiggins, 43, and nine other city residents had been charged with transporting for the purpose of prostitution. A superseding indictment unsealed on

Thursday charges the defendants with conspiracy to commit human trafficking and sex trafficking by force.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Texas alleges the group leaders called themselves concert promoters to allegedly lure women into their group and then force them to dance at strip clubs, including at The Block, and to be prostitutes. One of the bars mentioned in the indictment is Chez Joey on East Baltimore Street, shown above in the picture by The Sun's Gene Sweeney Jr.

Prosecutors said the group had strict rules, confiscated the women's cell phones and identification cards, and set minimums for pay, all of which were taken by the leaders. Rules, prosecutors said, "prohibited any communication by the victims and personal interaction with anyone outside the group without the defendants permission."

On Sunday, [The Sun published a long article on the case](#) and interviewed one of the women involved. The story documents how several women escaped, helped others to get out and then helped the FBI. All 10 suspects were arrested at a single family house off Harford Road in Northeast Baltimore.

Here is a statement from federal prosecutors on the case:

EL PASO FEDERAL GRAND JURY RETURNS SUPERSEDING INDICTMENT IN BALTIMORE BASED FEDERAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING INVESTIGATION

United States Attorney Robert Pitman and Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agent in Charge Mark Morgan announced that ten individuals, including the C.E.O. of 424 Records, 1 Team 1 Family Entertainment, DBD TV and DBD Productions in Baltimore, Maryland, face additional charges in connection with a forced prostitution scheme based in El Paso and Baltimore.

Alarcon Allen Wiggins (aka "Alarcon Tha Don"), age 43, and nine other Baltimore residents are charged in a superseding indictment returned late yesterday afternoon for their roles in a human trafficking/forced prostitution operation. The other defendants include: 20-year-old DeAngelo Perry Smith (aka "D-Lo"); 23-year-old Deyonta Thompson (aka "Wezz Fresh"); 18-year-old Marc Corey Williams (aka "DJ Yung Rock," "J-Rock"); 28-year-old Martes Milton Jackson (aka "Tuesday"); 25-year-old Shelby Nicole Smith (aka "Bebe"); 30-year-old

About Peter Hermann



Peter Hermann started covering news for *The Baltimore Sun* in 1990, first in Anne Arundel County and, starting in 1994, reporting on the Baltimore Police Department. In 2001, he was assigned to Jerusalem as the *Baltimore Sun's* Middle East correspondent. He returned in 2005 as an assistant city editor overseeing crime coverage. In 2008, Peter returned to the beat as a daily reporter and blogger. A recent **BBC report** featured him in a segment on the harsh realities of covering crime in Baltimore.

Coverage will focus on crime trends, problems in neighborhoods in the city and elsewhere, profiles of victims and police officers and try to offer readers a fresh perspective on one of the most vexing issues facing Baltimore and its future.

Contributing to this blog is **Justin Fenton**, who joined *The Sun* in 2005 and has covered the Baltimore City Police Department and the criminal justice system since 2008. His work includes an investigation into Cal Ripken Jr.'s minor league baseball stadium deal with his hometown of Aberdeen, a three-part series chronicling a ruthless con woman, coverage of the killing of five Amish children at a schoolhouse in Nickel Mines, Pa., and a job swap with a British crime reporter to explore differences in crime-fighting. A special report looking into how city police handle rape cases led to sweeping reforms that changed the way sexual assaults are investigated in Baltimore. He was recognized as the best reporter in Baltimore by the *City Paper* in 2010 and by *Baltimore Magazine* in 2011.

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Roxanne Michelle Mitchell (aka "Nakira," "Foxy," "Roxy," "Mama," "Cherish"); 26-year-old Amanda Gayle Darbonne (aka "Kristale," "Kristal"); 24-year-old Holly N. Reemer (aka "Amira"); and, 22-year-old Brandi L. Minnich (aka "Natasha").

The superseding indictment charges all of the defendants with conspiracy to commit human trafficking; conspiracy to transport for prostitution; conspiracy to coerce and entice for prostitution; benefitting financially from forced labor; and, three counts of sex trafficking induced by force, fraud or coercion. Wiggins, Smith, Thompson, Williams and Jackson also face three counts of forced labor. Wiggins is also charged with two counts of concealing, removing or confiscating identification documents; Thompson and Smith, one count of concealing, removing or confiscating identification documents.

The superseding indictment alleges that defendants Wiggins, Smith, Thompson, Williams and Jackson—all self-proclaimed recording artists—used their ties to the music industry to recruit young women then force them to work as strippers and prostitutes.

Furthermore, the indictment charges that defendants Smith, Mitchell, Darbonne, Reemer and Minnich allegedly trained the recruited women to work as strippers and prostitutes, then enforced the organization's rules including preventing the victims from fleeing or seeking help. The indictment alleges that the defendants confiscated all means of communication from the victims, namely cell phones and laptop computers; confiscated all identification documents from victims; prohibited any communication by the victims and personal interaction with anyone outside the group without the defendants' permission or in their presence; and, collected all victims' earnings for the benefit of the defendants.

The superseding indictment also charges that since January 2009, the defendants, aided and abetted by one another and under the direction of Wiggins, knowingly transported individuals in interstate commerce, as well as enticed individuals to travel in interstate commerce, to El Paso and other locations, to engage in prostitution.

"This indictment represents the culmination of hard work done by federal, state and local agents in El Paso, Texas and Baltimore, Maryland. Human Traffickers often target innocent victims seeking a better lifestyle for themselves or their families. The FBI is committed to rigorously investigating these types of criminal violations in an effort to maintain safety throughout the El Paso community," stated Mark Morgan, FBI Special Agent in Charge, El Paso Division.

The indictment also contains a notice of criminal forfeiture whereby the government is seeking to forfeit \$1 million dollars, which represent proceeds allegedly derived from the criminal activity. Upon conviction, each defendant faces: a minimum of 15 years and up to life in federal prison per count for conspiracy to commit human trafficking and sex trafficking by force, fraud or coercion; up to 20 years in federal prison for conspiracy to coerce or entice for prostitution; and, up to five years in federal prison for conspiracy to transport for prostitution.

Also, Wiggins, Smith, Thompson, Williams and Jackson face up to 20 years in federal prison upon conviction for each forced labor count. Thompson, Smith and Wiggins are subject to a maximum five years in federal prison for each concealing, removing or confiscating identification documents charge.





This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The Baltimore Police Department S.W.A.T. team assisted in making the arrests. Assistant United States Attorney J. Brandy Gardes and Daniel Crumby are prosecuting this case on behalf of the government.

As a note, the Western District of Texas has been selected as the site of one of six Pilot Federal Anti-Trafficking Coordination Teams (ACTeams).

The ACTeam Initiative, adopted jointly by Attorney General Eric Holder, Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, and Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis, brings together federal agents from FBI, ICE-HSI, DOL Wage and Hour Division, and DOL OIG, and federal prosecutors in United States Attorneys

Posted by [Peter Hermann](#) at 7:08 AM | [Permalink](#) | [Comments \(2\)](#)

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Comments

Concerned citizens may report suspected cases of human trafficking to the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-3737-888. (Most languages spoken.) If more decent people reported what they sensed to be wrong, this slave trade could be curtailed. These businesses are springing up in strip malls, often as "spas" and in houses within neighborhoods right under our noses. Watchful eyes could make a huge difference.

Posted by: [Joan Darcy](#) | **November 11, 2011 8:51 AM**

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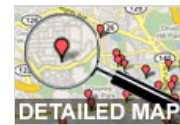
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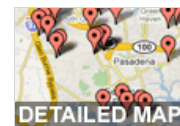
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Hope those animals rot. In these pimp cases, the women are controlled through the deprivation of basic essential needs like soap, toothpaste, and even food, all of which must be "earned" by working for these savages. After a while, the victims learn to depend on their pimp and will actually defend them because that's their only ticket to the basic essential needs.

Posted by: Joe Piner | November 11, 2011 9:42 AM

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