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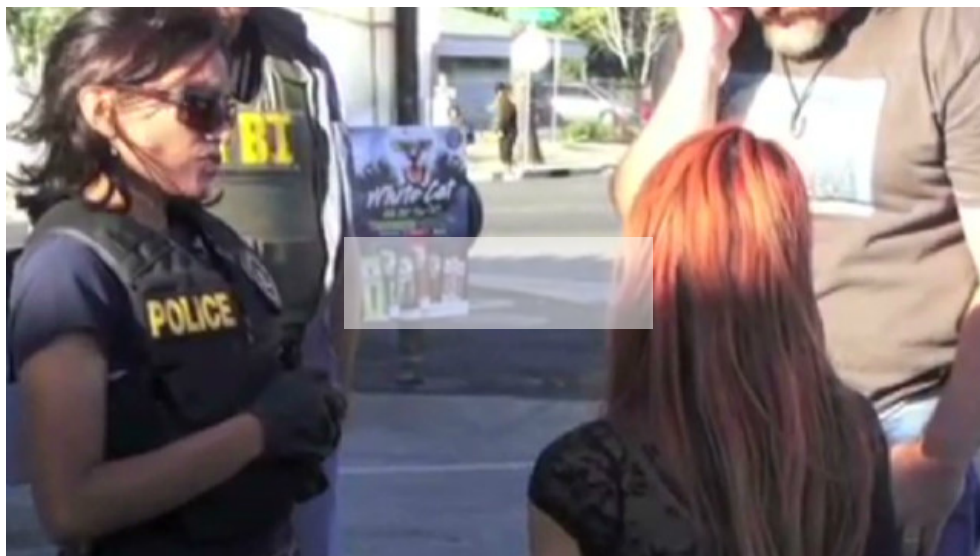
# FBI: Nationwide child prostitution sweep leads to 104 arrests, 79 children rescued

By Carol Cratty, CNN

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## STORY HIGHLIGHTS

Operation Cross Country 6 took place from Friday through Sunday

The nationwide sweep involved more than 2,500 officers working in 57 cities

Children rescued from prostitution operations ranged in age from 13 to 17

Children's advocate: At least 100,000 American kids get lured into prostitution every year

**Washington (CNN)** -- During a three-day law enforcement sweep targeting the problem of teenage prostitution, officers rescued 79 children and arrested 104 alleged pimps, the FBI announced Monday.

Operation Cross Country 6 took place from Friday through Sunday with more than 2,500 state, local and federal officers working in 57 cities.

FBI Acting Executive Assistant Director Kevin Perkins said the children law enforcement freed from their handlers ranged from 13 to 17 years old with one girl saying she had gotten involved in prostitution when she was 11.

### Feds break up child porn ring

"Many times the children that are taken in in these types of criminal activities are children that are disaffected, they are from broken homes, they may be on the street themselves -- they are really looking for a meal, they are looking for shelter, they are looking for someone to take care of them, and that's really the first approach that's made," said Perkins.

"Once the child has been taken out of harm's way, then really the story just begins at that point," said Perkins. "That's where the real

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work starts, where we have to call upon the community, various social welfare agencies, our own office of victim assistance has to work with each child on an individual basis to see what their requirements are.

"This is a very difficult task. These children are very damaged -- very harmed, and they need a great deal of help -- it's really taxing the social welfare agencies and it's something that, going forward, we need to pay particular attention to."

Even though the FBI says 79 children were rescued, officials said there's no guarantee those minors won't be lured back into prostitution.

"A lot of these kids feel like they are in love, and therefore many of them will go back, so it's not only important that they get help, but they need a specialized kind of help," said Ernie Allen, president of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

According to Perkins, the people exploiting children in this manner are engaged in organized crime and have business plans and strategies. He said such criminals know their market and will move kids from state to state to service clients. The criminals use various methods including the Internet to find vulnerable kids. They also may find them at bus stations or truck stops and offer them help as a first step to winning their confidence.

Operation Cross Country is part of the FBI's Innocence Lost National Initiative which was started in 2003. With 47 task forces and working groups, the FBI says more than 2,200 children have been pulled off the streets along with more than 1,000 convictions of people exploiting kids. According to the FBI, many of the convictions have resulted in long prison sentences, including eight life terms.

Despite those figures, the FBI and child advocates said child prostitution continues to be a serious problem and they called on the public to realize it can happen in any town and neighborhood.

Allen said the best estimate is that at least 100,000 American kids get lured into prostitution every year.

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trophy3

The pimps should be shot but what about the "johns" that pay for sex with these children? Unless we stop them they will find another pimp with another child. Paying for sex with a child under 16 should be a capitol offense.

3 hours ago 46 Likes

Like Reply



spurtulous

same thing could be said for the drug war.... but hey we need our glaucoma medz

2 hours ago in reply to trophy3 1 Like

Like



Richard Fabela

Death Penalty for anyone who profits from child prostitution "child rape"

3 hours ago 32 Likes

Like Reply



bcraig21

Long sentences and life in prison? It should be death period.

3 hours ago 32 Likes

Like Reply



se123

seriously....pass a law to castrate!

3 hours ago 25 Likes

Like Reply



bcraig21

It is a power thing more than sexual. Castrating takes out the wrong organ. Bullet to the brain is more like it.

3 hours ago in reply to se123 42 Likes

Like



**Bruinman86**

Better yet: Death penalty to those pimping these kids out. This country is way too soft on pimps/predators like this involving children. They get a few years in prison and can go right back out there and do it again. Society has no place for people like this.

18 minutes ago in reply to se123

Like



**klee4510**

Just like the drug trade, this awful industry is sustained by demand. But I don't think that anybody would call this a 'victimless crime'. Pimps AND johns have to be prosecuted hard!

3 hours ago 18 Likes

Like Reply



**trophy3**

Don't ever think for a second that drugs are a victimless crime. Drugs kill more people than alcohol. Did booze ever cause a man to chew another mans face untill he was shot and killed by police?How many people O.D. and die from booze?No Drugs are victimless including alcohol and nicotine.

2 hours ago in reply to klee4510 5 Likes

Like



**zlulz**

**trophy3** And yet alcohol and tobacco are legal, while being the most destructive, yet everything else is illegal. Heck, weed is in the same class as heroine, and the worst thing that happens is someone stimulated the economy with a run to taco bell.

2 hours ago in reply to klee4510 4 Likes

Like



**shraeve**

Who said child sex exploitation is a victimless crime?

1 hour ago in reply to klee4510

Like



**Mark Glomski**

Kill the pimps.

3 hours ago 11 Likes

Like Reply



**DRUNKIN MOM**

With at least 100,000 American kids getting lured into prostitution every year, I sure hope these cops don't break their arms patting themselves on the back for rescuing 0.079% of them today...

2 hours ago 10 Likes

Like Reply



**shraeve**

Where did they get that 100,000 figure? If there really are 100,000 going into prostitution each year, then why did they only find 79?

1 hour ago in reply to DRUNKIN MOM 1 Like

Like



**PoppyN**

Lord help me, I actually agree with you.

2 hours ago in reply to DRUNKIN MOM 1 Like

Like



**Jeff Farnsworth**

This is a sick world we live in! Sick people!

3 hours ago 10 Likes

Like Reply



**PolluxTroy**

Unfortunately, teenage prostitution is one of the lesser sick things when compared to the real horrors that are a reality in this world.

3 hours ago in reply to Jeff Farnsworth 8 Likes

Like



**cin507**

Kill them all, one by one. And let them all watch til its their turn to take one to the head. Thats justice.

3 hours ago 9 Likes

Like Reply



**PolluxTroy**

Haven't these children suffered enough? And you want them all executed?

3 hours ago in reply to cin507 5 Likes

Like



**avgthinker**

Those that use the kids in this fashion are only partly to blame. The people who buy a kid for sexual gratification needs to be taken out as well. The only problem is what to do with those creeps. They can't be rehabilitated per their own admission. Death would be best but to controversial to be implemented. However, like drugs the war on prostitution is not a winnable war. The Spanish inquisition didn't stop it. American justice doesn't stand a prayer. Legalize adult prostitution and make it safe. That will allow the police to concentrate on more things like this that should be halted.

2 hours ago 7 Likes

Like Reply



**shraeve**

You are right. If it were legal, 99% of the trade would be funneled into legal venues, with police registration, ID checks, and lie detector tests to make sure they aren't giving any of their hard-earned money to some pimp. Then law enforcement would have the resources to deal with those few remaining cases of child prostitution.

1 hour ago in reply to avgthinker

Like



**CJBarton**

Maybe some teens make an informed decision, but really - can you really blame the victim? The pathology of the abusers and pimps is so horrendous by comparison, it's like comparing lambs to alligators. I hope they got a few in Philadelphia, specifically young blonde girls. Hooray for the Finders.

3 hours ago 7 Likes

Like Reply



**28Mamerican**

Nice work. What do you know the police and gov can actually arrest people that endanger/harm others and not just non violent poor folks.

3 hours ago 6 Likes

Like Reply



**PolluxTroy**

Well anyone who isn't a complete simpleton already knew that. Welcome to semi-enlightenment.

3 hours ago in reply to 28Mamerican 10 Likes

Like



**nothingnew1**

Less time and money should be spent on searching for pot and more effort given to this.

1 hour ago 5 Likes

Like Reply



**guesswhatelse**

pot never hurt anybody but the illegality of it has

1 hour ago in reply to nothingnew1 3 Likes

Like



**nothingnew1**

I don't care about what my neighbor or his kid smokes, but I do have a problem if someone in my neighborhood is trying to sell kids.

1 hour ago in reply to nothingnew1 2 Likes

Like



**gravitiesend**

Instead of just reacting predictably appalled at every news story like this to come along, let's all look around at our friends, neighbors, fellow co-workers and churchgoers, and try to have a positive impact in their lives to help prevent this kind of trade from continuing, because THEY are the ones enabling it. We already interact with these people everyday - we just don't know it yet.

3 hours ago 5 Likes

Like Reply



**Phantasia**

That will never happen. We can't seem to recognize our part in all of our manufactured goods coming from cheap, abused labor either.

2 hours ago in reply to gravitiesend 2 Likes

Like



**1usaFACTS**

Those Mexicans drug dealers are pimping out these white girls on the streets.

3 hours ago 5 Likes

Like Reply



**EKLeslie**

No kiddo, it is Americans living here in American and the majority of them are white and black men. Do your homework, for Pete's sake.

3 hours ago in reply to 1usaFACTS 8 Likes

Like



**acct1**

Hand me my baseball bat... it's PIMP TIME...

1 hour ago 4 Likes

Like Reply



**Franklin Cord**

Republicans responded to this action by the Executive Branch of Government by claiming this sweep will have a chilling effect on job creation and stifle innovation in the private sector.

1 hour ago 4 Likes

Like Reply

**SandraC**



Time to "Name and Shame" these creeps that prey on children. To hell with their privacy. In my opinion, they lost that perk when the decided that sexually abusing children was a business.

2 hours ago 4 Likes

Like Reply



**acct1**

PIMPS ARE COWARDS. CASTRATE THEM.

1 hour ago 3 Likes

Like Reply



**guesswhatelse**

save time ... kill them

56 minutes ago in reply to acct1

Like



**cameo35**

.....THEY SHOULD PASS A LAW THAT YOUR NOT AN ALDULT UNTIL YOUR 20 YEARS OF AGE.....

1 hour ago 3 Likes

Like Reply



**Westernslope**

How about a law that sterilizes white trash christains.

1 hour ago in reply to cameo35 3 Likes

Like



**guesswhatelse**

WS ridiculous statement

1 hour ago in reply to cameo35

Like



**JamesGreen9**

Legalizing prostitution could be the way to control it. Prostitution will never end one day

1 hour ago 3 Likes

Like Reply



**FakeReality**

This should all be legal when you turn 18.

Or we can do like Mexico and make it 15...

1 hour ago 3 Likes

Like Reply



**null**

I could support 104 death sentences, one for each pimp.

2 hours ago 3 Likes

Like Reply



**bannedthrice**

And one for Poppy please.

2 hours ago in reply to null 1 Like

Like



**PoppyN**

And one for the man who killed the child in Florida.

2 hours ago in reply to null

Like



**Westernslope**

Even though Jerry Sandusky only involved fifteen or so kids, his story sure took the spotlight to this one. The comment threads were FULL of anti gay hatred. FULL of people saying that pedophilia is a GAY problem and starts because of immoral homosexuals. This comment thread is empty of those kinds of comments. Even though 79, that's right, SEVENTY NINE children were rescued who were being sexually assaulted by heterosexual men, this comment thread is empty of vitrol and rage and disgust aimed at the HETEROSEXUAL population of our society. Our nation is FULL of hypocrisy. And Christians can go to the front of the line.

2 hours ago 3 Likes

Like Reply



**Cutedog2**

No westernslope, I don't know what sex or sexual orientation the victims ID themselves with, nor those of the pimps or the solicitors. Bottom line is you got upset about comments from another thread and brought it over here. You are making assumptions that all sexual activity in this underage prostitution bust was strictly heterosexual in nature. The reader does not know, I am sorry about the comments you read in the other article. Those were out of line, and not backed up with anything other than hate.

1 hour ago in reply to Westernslope 3 Likes

Like



**shraeve**

The article does not state how many victims were male and how many were female.

1 hour ago in reply to Westernslope 3 Likes

Like



**Cutedog2**

We do not know the sexual orientation of the people involved in this story; teens, pimps, or predators. You are equally guilty of making assumption like those comments in the Sandusky story, that all involved were heterosexual.

1 hour ago in reply to Westernslope 1 Like

Like



**Westernslope**

Oh please. You know as well as I do that these were girls. Lamé.

1 hour ago in reply to Cutedog2 1 Like

Like



**Schmiggy**

Thank you. An excellent point. Odd how some people only get outraged when a man rapes a younger male, but when an adult male rapes a female child? They are strangely silent.

2 hours ago in reply to Westernslope 1 Like

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