



NEWS RELEASE

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Federal Bureau of Investigation
San Francisco Field Office

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Seven Juveniles Recovered in Joint Super Bowl Operation Targeting Human Sex Trafficking

SAN FRANCISCO –The FBI, in partnership with more than thirty enforcement agencies in the Bay Area, recovered seven juveniles during an enforcement action focused on commercial human sex trafficking. Additionally, more than a dozen pimps and their associates were arrested, some of whom traveled to the San Francisco Bay Area from other states specifically for the purpose of commercial sex exploitation at the Super Bowl.

“High-profile special events, which draw large crowds, have become lucrative opportunities for sex trafficking criminal enterprises,” said FBI Assistant Special Agent in Charge Bertram Fairries. “By spreading the word early on that we would be cracking down on this type of criminal activity, we succeeded in stopping sex traffickers from operating as ‘business as usual’ and in some cases deterred traffickers from attempting to bring this crime into Bay Area communities at all.”

Human sex trafficking is the most common form of modern-day slavery. Estimates place the number of its domestic and international victims in the millions, mostly females and children enslaved in the commercial sex industry for little or no money.

The minors recovered during Super Bowl 50 operations ranged in ages from 14 to 17 years old and included high school students and children who had been reported missing by their families.

Additionally, a developmentally delayed adult who was being trafficked was rescued and her pimp was arrested.

During operations, law enforcement arrested 85 prostitution clients, also known as “johns” or “tricks”. In addition, 129 adults, both male and female, were contacted or arrested for prostitution. All were offered services.

Over the course of the operation, the FBI’s victim specialists teamed up with local service providers to offer women and children services such as food, clothing, and referrals to health care facilities, shelters and other programs.

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Today's announcement comes after more than six months of localized FBI-led law enforcement preparation. Working with a variety of federal, state and local partners, the FBI has provided training on how to identify and address child exploitation.

“Through partnerships, enhanced as a result of this operation, we hope to build a lasting framework that helps the community address this problem,” said San Francisco FBI Special Agent in Charge David J. Johnson. “Though we think it’s important to focus on this issue in light of a high-profile event, the sad reality is, this is a problem we see every day in communities across the country. The FBI and its partners remain committed to the identification and rescue of minor victims, and to hold accountable those who exploit children for financial gain.”

The FBI’s Super Bowl operation efforts are part of the Innocence Lost National Initiative that was established in 2003 by the FBI’s Criminal Investigative Division, in partnership with the Department of Justice and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, to address the growing problem of child exploitation.

To date the program has resulted in the identification and recovery of approximately 4,800 sexually exploited children. And prosecutors have obtained more than 2,000 convictions of pimps and others associated with these trafficking crimes, including at least 15 cases that have resulted in life sentences.

The San Francisco FBI worked closely with law enforcement partners in executing these operations, and would like to thank the following federal, state, and local law enforcement partners who participated in these Super Bowl enforcement efforts:

Alameda County DA’s Office
Alameda County Probation
Alameda County Sheriff’s Office
Alameda PD
Belmont PD
Burlingame PD
Contra Costa County Sheriff’s Office
Daly City PD
U.S. Department of State
Emeryville PD
Foster City PD
FBI-San Francisco- Oakland Resident Agency
FBI-San Francisco
FBI-San Francisco-San Jose Resident Agency
FBI-Violent Crimes Against Children Unit
FBI-Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS)
FBI-Houston
FBI-Los Angeles

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FBI-Sacramento
FBI-Washington Field Office
FBI Crisis Response K-9 Unit
Hayward PD
Homeland Security Investigations
Marin County Sheriff's Office
Milpitas PD
Morgan Hill PD
Northern California Regional Intelligence Center
Oakland PD
Redwood City PD
San Francisco PD
San Jose PD
San Jose ICAC
San Leandro PD
San Mateo County District Attorney's Office
San Mateo County Juvenile Probation
San Mateo County Sheriff's Office
San Mateo PD
San Rafael PD
Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office
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