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# Child Prostitution Sting Rescues 47 Children

Authorities Say They Nabbed More Than 500 Suspects as Part of the 3-Day Raids

By **PIERRE THOMAS**

Oct. 27, 2008



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Children across the country are being forced into prostitution in alarming numbers, according to federal and local authorities who recently completed a series of raids.

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In the last three days, the FBI and police from 29 cities rescued 47 children from 73 alleged pimps and more than 500 others who authorities say sought to exploit them. Among those children saved: a 12-year-old from Texas; a 13-year-old from Ohio; and a 14-year-old from Michigan.

"This is organized crime, these people are moving kids from city to city," said Ernie Allen, president and CEO of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. "They are involved in

A three-day nationwide child prostitution sting netted 73 pimps and almost 500 other suspects. Authorities also rescued 47 children.

(ABC News Photo Illustration)

21st century slavery. ? This is a problem that is happening on Main Street USA."

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These children were in nightmarish conditions, said Matthew Friedrich, acting assistant attorney general for the Justice Department's criminal division.

"Make no mistake, the minors who were recovered, were the victims of the worst kind of sexual exploitation," he said.

The cities targeted included: Alexandria, Va; Atlanta; Las Vegas; Miami; Dallas; Houston; Honolulu; Phoenix; and San Diego.

The Justice Department and FBI have increased their focus on the child sex slave problem since 2003 through a project known as the Innocence Lost National Initiative. The Justice Department estimates that as many as 300,000 U.S. children are engaged in prostitution, most of them runaways.

"Clearly, it's in the tens of thousands," Allen said in response to a question from ABC News.

More than 365 suspects have been convicted and 575 children have been rescued.

FBI Deputy Director John S. Pistole vowed today that the effort would continue. Those that exploit children should know they will be brought to justice," Pistole said.

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Unfortunately the exploiters, and the customers, ARE human beings.

jsfwp 4:05 PM


Keep it up Director Pistole, FBI and our police - also our laws must be changed in order to be able to go into these places, catch them and prosecute them. These are not human beings - they are monsters preying on the innocent. The angels in heaven are weeping over this. The United States must get a grip on this as well as teenage girls being used as sex slaves, and young women who are fooled into coming to this country innocently thinking they are going to do some work and wind up locked up as sex slaves. This story is monstrous, as is the story I watched on MSNBC about this problem. It is utterly disgusting and how do these kids get their lives back? Where are the churches now?

J-Ann88 3:38 PM

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