

## FEDERAL LABOR TRAFFICKING/FORCED LABOR CASES IN THE UNITED STATES 2000-2008

The following compilation offers a partial list of labor trafficking cases prosecuted in the United States. Although this list is not exhaustive, it is intended to offer an overview of a variety of cases that have been prosecuted over the last decade. Information about labor cases prosecuted in the United States has been compiled directly from a number of sources including the United States Department of Justice [www.usdoj.gov](http://www.usdoj.gov), the Center for Women Policy Studies' U.S. Policy Advocacy to Combat Trafficking (PACT) [www.centerwomenpolicy.org](http://www.centerwomenpolicy.org), and additional contributions from Polaris Project's National office.

**For more information, please contact The National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) at 1-888-3737-888.**

### **NOTE ON THE PROSECUTION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASES**

It is extremely significant to note that not all cases with trafficking victims are prosecuted using trafficking statutes. On a case by case basis, prosecutors consider several factors in determining what charges to bring, including the specific situation, victim status, the condition of available witness(es), and applicable laws to formulate the best approach for successful conviction. In a number of instances, although the crime of "severe forms" of human trafficking occurred, it is prosecuted through other crimes committed.

### **LEGISLATION FOR PROSECUTION OF LABOR TRAFFICKING CRIMES**

This is a list of related statutes to exemplify a few of the many ways labor trafficking/forced labor cases can sometimes be prosecuted. While this list is not exhaustive, it can provide a better understanding of the conviction process and methodology.

- **Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000:** TVPA legally defined labor trafficking as "the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery." (Public Law 106-386)  
Source: United States. Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000. 106th Congress. 28 October 2000. <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/10492.pdf>
- **Trafficking with Respect to Peonage, Slavery, Involuntary Servitude, or Forced Labor:** makes it unlawful to knowingly recruit, harbor, transport, or broker persons for labor or services through force, fraud, or coercion. (Public Law 106-386)  
Source: United States. 18 U.S.C. § 1590: "Trafficking with respect to peonage, slavery, involuntary servitude, or forced labor." 106<sup>th</sup> Congress. 28 October 2000. <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/10492.pdf>
  - **Involuntary Servitude:** to hold a person in a condition of slavery, that is, a condition of compulsory service or labor against his/her will. A conviction requires that the victim be held against his/her will by actual force, threats of force, or threats of legal coercion. 18 U.S.C. § 1584.  
Source: U.S. Department of Justice. Civil Rights Division. "Involuntary Servitude...": <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/1581fin.htm>
  - **Forced Labor:** passed as part of the TVPA, it is unlawful to provide or obtain the labor or services of a person through one of three prohibited means: threats of serious harm to that or another person, by

**This publication was made possible in part through Grant Number 90XR0012/02 from the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division, Office of Refugee Resettlement, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division, Office of Refugee Resettlement, or HHS.**

means of any plan intended to cause the person to believe if they did not perform the service or labor, that person or another would suffer serious harm, or by means of abuse or threatened abuse of the law or legal process. 18 U.S.C. § 1589.

Source: United States. Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000. 22 USC 7101 Sec 102. 106<sup>th</sup> Congress. 28 October 2000. <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/10492.pdf>

- **Unlawful Conduct with Respect to Documents in the Furtherance of Trafficking, Peonage, Slavery, Involuntary Servitude, or Forced Labor:** to seize, destroy, or conceal false or official documents in order to force others to work 18 U.S.C. § 1592.  
Source: United States. Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000. 18 U.S.C. § 1592 106<sup>th</sup> Congress. 28 October 2000. <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/10492.pdf>
- **Extortion:** the criminal offense of obtaining money or other valuables by compulsion, actual force, or force of motives applied to the will  
Source: Lexis Nexis. Ballentine's Law Dictionary. "Term: Extortion" 1969.  
[http://w3.lexis.com/lawschoolreg/xlinklogin04.asp?key=2241c2f21c5ef73fc703b1e0b04e80d5&autosubmit=yes&search=TERM%28extortion%29&topframe=on&powernav=on&e=WWW&ORINATION\\_CODE=00221&source=170950](http://w3.lexis.com/lawschoolreg/xlinklogin04.asp?key=2241c2f21c5ef73fc703b1e0b04e80d5&autosubmit=yes&search=TERM%28extortion%29&topframe=on&powernav=on&e=WWW&ORINATION_CODE=00221&source=170950)
- **Harboring an alien:** unlawful acts encouraging an alien to enter or reside illegally in the United States  
Source: U.S. Department of Justice. District of Kansas. "11 Individuals..."  
[http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ks/press/Sept07/09\\_21.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/ks/press/Sept07/09_21.html)
- **Hostage taking:** when a person "seizes or detains and threatens to kill, to injure or to continue to detain another person in order to compel a third party ... to do or abstain from doing any act as an explicit or implicit condition for the release of a hostage"  
Source: U.S. DC Circuit Court of Appeals. Simpson Sandra v SCLST Peoples Libyan. 22 April 2003.  
<http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/cgi-bin/getcase.pl?court=dc&navby=docket&no=017191a>

## LABOR TRAFFICKING/FORCED LABOR CASES PROSECUTED IN THE UNITED STATES

### TYPES OF LABOR TRAFFICKING

This compilation of labor cases is sorted by types of labor trafficking:

- Domestic Servitude/Domestic Workers
- Small Business Operations
- Hospitality/Restaurants
- Bars, Nightclubs, and Strip Clubs
- Peddling/Door-to-Door/Begging Rings
- Residential Facilities (Assisted living)
- Agriculture/Farms
- Large Factory (Canneries, Garment, Welding)
- Additional Labor Niches
- Pending

### DOMESTIC SERVITUDE/DOMESTIC WORKERS

United States v. Alamin and Akhter

United States v. Satia and Nanji

United States v. Soto-Huarte

United States v. Coleman and Blackwell

United States v. Lozoya

United States v. Marie and Willie Pompee

United States v. Trisanti and Nasution

United States v. Al-Turki and Khonaizan

United States v. Ibrahim and Motelib

United States v. Maher and Mahal Jishi

United States v. Mubang

United States v. Al Jader

United States v. Elizabeth and James Jackson

United States v. Ghenet and Joseph Mesfun

United States v. Maddox and deMaddox

United States v. Adaobi and Udeozor

United States v. Abdenasser and Tonya Ennassime

United States v. Calimlim & Calimlim

United States v. Djoumessi

### **United States v. Alamin and Akhter**

Defendants Nur Alamin and Rabiya Akhter brought a young woman from Bangladesh to the United States to be their housekeeper and nanny, but repeatedly beat and threatened her. Akhter was sentenced to more than one year in prison for an immigration violation while Alamin was sentenced to eleven years in prison for involuntary servitude. In 2001, both defendants were ordered to pay nearly \$126,000 to the victim.

Source: Center for Women Policy Studies. "Fact Sheet on Federal Prosecutions of Trafficking Cases in the U.S..."

<http://www.centerwomenpolicy.org/programs/trafficking/documents/TraffickingFederalCasesFactSheetMay2006.pdf>

### **United States v. Satia and Nanji**

In December 2001, a Federal jury in Maryland convicted Louisa Satia, age 36, and Kevin Waton Nanji, age 40, of Silver Spring, Maryland, of holding a teenage Cameroonian girl in involuntary servitude and of illegally harboring her in their home as their domestic servant. She was physically and sexually abused for several years. The defendants were sentenced to 108 months in prison and \$105,306.64 restitution.

Source: Center for Women Policy Studies. "Fact Sheet on Federal Prosecutions of Trafficking Cases in the U.S..." <http://www.centerwomenpolicy.org/programs/trafficking/map/prosecutiondetail.cfm?state=MD#51>

### **United States v. Soto-Huarta**

Seven men were sentenced to a combined 51 years in prison for trafficking and forced servitude crimes. Juan Carlos Soto, the ringleader, was sentenced to 23 years in prison. Arrested in March and April 2003, the men trafficked four women from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, who had agreed to pay \$5000 to be smuggled into the United States. However, once they arrived in the United States, the women were confined in "safe houses," where they were forced to cook, clean, and do housework without pay. In addition, they were repeatedly raped by the defendants, who were charged and convicted on federal civil rights violations, extortion, hostage-taking, immigration offenses, involuntary servitude, and human trafficking.

Source: Center for Women Policy Studies. "Fact Sheet on Federal Prosecutions of Trafficking Cases in the U.S..." <http://www.centerwomenpolicy.org/programs/trafficking/map/prosecutiondetail.cfm?state=TX#103>

### **United States v. Coleman and Blackwell**

On January 8, 2003, in Greenbelt, Maryland, defendant Barbara Coleman-Blackwell was sentenced to five years and three months in prison and Kenneth Blackwell, her husband, was sentenced to six months of home detention and three years probation for trafficking and alien smuggling charges. The defendants conspired to smuggle a Ghanaian woman into the United States for the purpose of using her as an unpaid domestic servant and nanny. Once in the United States, her passport was taken away and hidden from her, she was required to perform manual labor with little or no compensation, and was threatened with deportation and imprisonment if she did not do as instructed by the defendants.

Source: Center for Women Policy Studies. "Fact Sheet on Federal Prosecutions of Trafficking Cases in the U.S. ..."

<http://www.centerwomenpolicy.org/programs/trafficking/documents/TraffickingFederalCasesFactSheetMay2006.pdf>

### **United States v. Lozoya**

Two defendants pled guilty to illegal transportation of a young Mexican woman into the United States for domestic servitude. The Mexican woman and her baby daughter were held in a trailer and abused, and the family's neglect to obtain medical assistance for the baby resulted in her death. The defendants were sentenced on June 25, 2003 to fifteen years and five years respectively.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice. "Report to Congress from Attorney General John Ashcroft on U.S. Government Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons in Fiscal Year 2003." <http://books.google.com/books?>

[id=IT749llgmhMC&pg=PA23&lpq=PA23&dq=United+States+v.+Salazar-Juarez&source=web&ots=I9564phi0R&sig=7HUVG3DBIE39DrwTNo20rbmPYRw#PPA1,M1](http://www.federalcourts.gov/cases/IT749llgmhMC&pg=PA23&lpq=PA23&dq=United+States+v.+Salazar-Juarez&source=web&ots=I9564phi0R&sig=7HUVG3DBIE39DrwTNo20rbmPYRw#PPA1,M1)

### **United States v. Marie and Willie Pompee**

Married, Willie and Marie Pompee, were charged in March 2004 with harboring a minor alien in their South Florida home from 1996 to 1999. The couple smuggled the child into the United States from Haiti and then used the child as a household servant. The victim was allegedly sexually abused by the couple's son, Willy Pompee, Jr. Willie and Willy Jr. fled the country in 1999 and are currently fugitives. Marie has pleaded guilty to the harboring charge. If convicted, the Pompees each face a prison term of up to 10 years and a fine of up to \$250,000 plus restitution to the victim.

Source: Center for Women Policy Studies. "Fact Sheet on Federal Prosecutions of Trafficking Cases in the U.S..." <http://www.centerwomenpolicy.org/programs/trafficking/map/prosecutiondetail.cfm?state=FL#33>, Florida Coalition against Human Trafficking <http://www.stophumantrafficking.org/Activism.htm>

### **United States v. Trisanti and Nasution**

In 2004, Mariska Trisanti and her husband Herri Nasution, both Indonesian nationals, pleaded guilty in California to counts of involuntary servitude, harboring undocumented women in their home, and visa fraud. The couple recruited two women from Indonesia to Los Angeles and forced them to work seven days a week for 17 or more hours per day. The couple also threatened the women with physical abuse and jail time and provided virtually no compensation for their work. In August 2004, Nasution was sentenced to six months home detention and three years supervised release. In March 2005, Trisanti was sentenced to 46 months in prison and a tentative order to pay \$203,000 in restitution.

Source: Center for Women Policy Studies. "Fact Sheet on Federal Prosecutions of Trafficking Cases in the U.S..." <http://www.centerwomenpolicy.org/programs/trafficking/map/statelist.cfm?linktype=5&statename=California>

### **United States v. Al-Turki and Khonaizan**

On June 9, 2005, an Aurora couple, Homaidan Al-Turki and Sarah Khonaizan, were indicted in Colorado on charges of forced labor, document servitude, and the harboring of an illegal alien. From September 2000 through November 2004, the couple allegedly held an Indonesian woman in involuntary servitude in their home, where they also subjected her to aggravated sexual abuse. The indictment states that Al-Turki and Khonaizan also confiscated the victim's Indonesian passport and U.S. visa and threatened her with abuse of the law and legal process. If convicted of the forced labor charges, the defendants would face a maximum sentence of life in prison, and a \$250,000 fine. The couple is being held in Arapahoe County on additional state charges.

Source: Center for Women Policy Studies. "Fact Sheet on Federal Prosecutions of Trafficking Cases in the U.S..." <http://www.centerwomenpolicy.org/programs/trafficking/map/statelist.cfm?linktype=5&statename=Colorado>

### **United States v. Ibrahim and Motelib**

Abdel Nasser Eid Youssef Ibrahim and Amal Ahmed Ewis-abd Motelib were indicted in California in February 2005 on charges of involuntary servitude, obtaining services through force and coercion, harboring an illegal alien, and conspiracy. Ibrahim and Motelib are accused of fraudulently obtaining a visa for a 12 year old Egyptian girl to come to the United States, where they held her in their garage from 2000 to 2002 and forced

her to work as a domestic servant. The couple is also accused of threatening and physically abusing the victim and threatening her sister in Egypt. If convicted of all of the charges in the indictment, Ibrahim and Motelib each face a maximum sentence of 50 years in prison.

Source: Center for Women Policy Studies. "Fact Sheet on Federal Prosecutions of Trafficking Cases in the U.S..." <http://www.centerwomenpolicy.org/programs/trafficking/map/prosecutiondetail.cfm?state=CA#8>

#### **United States v. Maher and Mahal Jishi**

Maher and Manal Jishi pleaded guilty on April 13, 2005 to harboring Chandra Bulathwatte, an illegal Sri Lankan alien for the purpose of cheap or free domestic services from April 2002-February 2005. Maher was sentenced to one year of probation and a fine of \$10,000. Manal was sentenced to serve one year of probation and \$2,500 in fines.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice. "Couple Sentenced in Connection with Keeping a Sri Lankan Woman in Their Home for Financial Gain" [http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nj/press/files/jish0722\\_r.htm](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nj/press/files/jish0722_r.htm)

#### **United States v. Mubang**

Theresa Mubang, a Cameroonian national and permanent resident alien of the United States, was convicted of holding a Cameroonian girl, Evelyn Chumbow, in involuntary servitude and of harboring her for financial gain. From November 1996 to December 1998, Mubang forced Chumbow to work in her home as a domestic servant, where she took care of Mubang's children and performed household chores without receiving any pay. Mubang also beat Chumbow with a metal broom stick and a cable cord to force her to comply with her orders. On February 28, 2005, Mubang was sentenced to 17 ½ years in prison and was ordered to pay \$100,000 in restitution to Chumbow. However, Mubang fled after her conviction and is currently a fugitive from justice.

Source: Center for Women Policy Studies. "Fact Sheet on Federal Prosecutions of Trafficking Cases in the U.S. ..." <http://www.centerwomenpolicy.org/programs/trafficking/map/prosecutiondetail.cfm?state=MD#53>

#### **United States v. Al Jader**

On December 21, 2006, Saudi Arabian princess Hana F. Al Jader of Winchester was sentenced to two years of probation, of which after six months she will be deported to Saudi Arabia. She was also sentenced to pay \$206,000 in restitution, a \$40,000 fine, and 100 hours of community service. Al Jader was convicted of breaking U.S. immigration laws by locking up her domestics' passports and forcing them to work for only \$300 per month after submitting falsified documents stating she would pay \$1,500 per month.

Source: Washington Post. "Judge Orders Saudi Princess Deported" 22 December 2006. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/12/22/AR2006122200064.html>

#### **United States v. Elizabeth and James Jackson**

The California defendants were charged with a forced labor conspiracy to compel a former Filipina school teacher to work as their domestic servant. The husband, a former Sony executive, and his wife fraudulently obtained a visa for the victim, who was confined to their home and subjected to verbal and physical abuse, humiliation, debt bondage, and other forms of punishment to compel her continued service. They also confiscated her passport and return airline ticket. The victim had previously filed a civil suit in which she was awarded \$825,000.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice. "Attorney General's Annual Report to Congress...Fiscal Year 2006" <http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2006/agreporhumantrafficking2006.pdf>

### **United States v. Ghenet and Joseph Mesfun**

The New Jersey defendants, naturalized citizens from Eritrea, were charged with forcing the victim to work as a domestic servant in their home for over ten years after bringing her to the country from Eritrea. The victim, who entered the United States on a visitor's visa that expired in February 1993, never attended school, does not speak English, and does not read or write in her native language. In 2003, a relative, in whom the victim was able to confide, reported the situation to authorities. The defendants were charged with forcing the victim to work every day without a day off, cooking, cleaning, and caring for the children. The defendants held her passport and paid her \$130 in cash once a month, but deposited the money in an account that she was unable to access. She was also allegedly threatened, physically assaulted, and verbally abused repeatedly.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice. "Attorney General's Annual Report to Congress...Fiscal Year 2006"

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2006/agreporhumantrafficking2006.pdf>

### **United States v. Maddox and deMaddox**

Texas couple Maddox and deMaddox pleaded guilty and were sentenced to 33 months and 84 months in prison and ordered to pay \$28,822 restitution for smuggling a 12-year-old girl from Mexico to be their baby-sitter and then forcing her into domestic servitude. The victim was forced to sleep on the floor, was not allowed to attend school and was told she could not return to Mexico. She was also physically abused by the wife. The victim was discovered when the local sheriff was called to the defendants' residence in response to a reported drug overdose.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice. "Attorney General's Annual Report to Congress...Fiscal Year 2006"

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2006/agreporhumantrafficking2006.pdf>

### **United States v. Adaobi and Udeozor**

In 1996, Adaobi Stella and George Udeozor smuggled a 14-year old Nigerian girl into the United States and forced her into domestic servitude in Germantown, Maryland. The girl was required to perform household chores, work at Stella's office without pay, and was not allowed to attend school. She was regularly abused physically, verbally, and sexually as well as threatened with violence and deportation. George Udeozor remains a fugitive; however, Stella Udeozor was convicted on conspiracy and harboring and sentenced on April 18, 2006 to serve 87 months in prison and pay just over \$110,000 to the victim.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice. Civil Rights Division: Criminal Section. "Selected Case Summaries: Human Trafficking" <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/selcases.htm#humantrafficking>

### **United States v. Abdenasser and Tonya Ennassime**

A Moroccan couple in Washington state pleaded guilty after being charged with forced labor and concealing and harboring an alien for holding their niece as a slave. In exchange for lodging and the chance for a good education, the victim cared for the defendants' young son, prepared breakfast and dinner, performed household cleaning chores, and worked weekends and summers without pay at the defendants' espresso stand. When the defendants learned of the victim's complaints of mistreatment, they assaulted her, threatened to report her illegal status in the United States, withdrew her from school, and forced her to work longer hours at the espresso stand without pay. In September 2006, they were ordered to pay \$65,226.65 restitution to the victim and one was sentenced to six months of electronic home detention, 240 hours of community service and three years of probation. The other was sentenced to 90 days of electronic home detention, 60 hours of community service, and three years of probation.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice. "Attorney General's Annual Report to Congress...Fiscal Year 2006"

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2006/agreporhumantrafficking2006.pdf>, Seattle Weekly, "Tall Americano..." <http://www.seattleweekly.com/2007-01-31/news/tall-american-hold-the-paycheck.php>

### **United States v. Calimlim & Calimlim**

On March 16, 2005, a Wisconsin couple and medical doctors, Jefferson N. Calimlim and Elnora M. Calimlim, were indicted on charges of human trafficking and harboring an alien for the purpose of private financial gain. The couple's son, Jefferson, Jr., also was charged with harboring an alien for financial gain and making false material statements to federal officials. The indictment alleges that from 1985 through September 2004, the couple used psychological harm and threats of serious harm and physical restraint to coerce a Filipina woman to serve as a domestic worker in their home. The victim took care of their children, cleaned the house, and prepared the family's meals. She was not able to communicate with anyone outside the home and could not leave the residence without supervision. The defendants promised the woman they would keep her salary in an account, but the woman did not have access to the account or know where it was kept. On November 16, 2006, the defendants were sentenced to serve four years in prison. On February 14, 2007, the defendants were ordered to pay the victim over \$900,000 in restitution.

Source: Center for Women Policy Studies. "Fact Sheet on Federal Prosecutions of Trafficking Cases in the U.S...." <http://www.centerwomenpolicy.org/programs/trafficking/map/prosecutiondetail.cfm?state=WI#130>

### **United States v. Djoumessi**

Joseph and Evelyn Djoumessi, a couple who are Cameroonian nationals and permanent resident aliens of the United States, were charged in a three count indictment in Michigan with forcing a fourteen year old Cameroonian girl into involuntary servitude as an unpaid domestic servant in their Michigan home for almost four years. The couple abused the girl physically and sexually. On May 31, 2007, the couple was sentenced to 218 months and 60 months respectively and \$100,000 for involuntary servitude and restitution.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice: Anti-Trafficking News Bulletin Summer/Fall 2007

[http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/trafficking\\_newsletter/aug\\_07.htm#7](http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/trafficking_newsletter/aug_07.htm#7), "Human Trafficking and Modern-day Slavery..." <http://gvnet.com/humantrafficking/Cameroon.htm>

### **SMALL BUSINESSES OPERATIONS**

United States v. Reddy

United States v. Bradley & O'Dell

United States v. Maka

United States v. DuPreez

### **United States v. Reddy**

In March 2001, Lakireddy Bali Reddy was found guilty of bringing at least 25 undocumented immigrants and minors to the U.S. for immoral sexual purposes since 1986. Reddy brought undocumented immigrants to the United States to have sex with him and to work for little or no pay in multiple businesses and apartments. The victims were culturally and socially isolated, as well as sexually abused. Reddy put his victims in a situation where for many years they were unable to learn their rights and did not realize what freedom meant. The victims and survivors of this case were scared of Reddy's power and were unaware of how American law could protect them. Reddy was sentenced to 97 months in prison and ordered to pay \$2,000,000 restitution to the victims. His son was sentenced to one year home detention, five years probation, and 300 hours of community service. He was also ordered to pay a \$20,000 fine in connection with his father's trafficking ring.

Sources: Center for Women Policy Studies. "Enacted Laws by State."

[http://www.centerwomenpolicy.org/programs/trafficking/map/statelist.cfm?](http://www.centerwomenpolicy.org/programs/trafficking/map/statelist.cfm?linktype=5&statename=California)

[linktype=5&statename=California](http://www.usdoj.gov/opa/pr/2001/March/126cr.htm) ; U.S. Department of Justice. "Fact Sheet: Worker Exploitation."

<http://www.usdoj.gov/opa/pr/2001/March/126cr.htm> ; Alliance of South Asians Taking Action. "Lakireddy..."

<http://www.asata.org/node/144>

### **United States v. Bradley & O'Dell**

On January 16, 2004, Timothy Bradley and Kathleen O'Dell were each sentenced to five years and ten months in federal prison after being convicted on charges of forced labor, human trafficking, document servitude, wire fraud, and conspiracy. Bradley and O'Dell were also ordered to pay the victims \$13,052 in restitution and Bradley was ordered to pay a fine of \$12,500. In 2000 and 2001, Bradley and O'Dell recruited four Jamaican citizens to work for Bradley's tree cutting business in New Hampshire. Once the four men arrived in the United States, however, Bradley and O'Dell used threats and physical harm to coerce the men to work, confiscated the men's passports, and severely restricted their ability to travel.

Source: Center for Women Policy Studies. "Fact Sheet on Federal Prosecutions of Trafficking Cases in the U.S. ..."

[http://www.centerwomenpolicy.org/programs/trafficking/map/statelist.cfm?](http://www.centerwomenpolicy.org/programs/trafficking/map/statelist.cfm?linktype=5&statename=New%20Hampshire)

### **United States v. Maka**

In December 2004, Lue'leni Maka, a landscape maintenance contractor and rock wall builder in Hawaii, was convicted on 34 counts, including involuntary servitude, forced labor, trafficking, document servitude, and alien smuggling. Maka was found guilty of transporting Tongan men to Hawaii, where he forced them to work in his businesses six days a week for longer than 12 hours per day. The defendant also beat the men and forced them to live in shacks on his pig farm, where he restricted their movements and hunted escapees. Sentence is pending as of February 15, 2006.

Source: United States Department of Justice. "Appendix II: Human Trafficking Cases, Fiscal Years 2001-2005." P.80 <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/appendices.pdf>

### **United States v. DuPreez**

In Georgia, five defendants were charged in connection with a scheme to bring aliens, primarily from South Africa, into the United States illegally and to provide them with employment at their granite and marble business. Once in the United States, the victims resided in apartments leased by the granite company, and they were induced to provide labor for cash or for credit against the cost of their rent, furniture, utilities, and visa applications. The defendants threatened to report the victims' illegal status to the immigration authorities as a means of keeping them under their employment. Four defendants pleaded guilty to conspiring to harbor aliens and were sentenced to terms of incarceration ranging from 24 to 108 months. In addition, Johannes DuPreez was ordered to pay \$363,579.40 restitution to the IRS and to pay a \$50,000 fine, while Franciszka DuPreez was ordered to pay \$182,036 restitution to the IRS. A fifth defendant who pleaded guilty was sentenced to eight months home confinement and fined \$2,000.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice. "Attorney General's Annual Report to Congress...Fiscal Year 2006"

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2006/agreporhumantrafficking2006.pdf>

## **HOSPITALITY/RESTAURANTS**

United States v. Phu

United States v. Farrell

### **United States v. Phu**

In June 2005, Hin Khai Phu, Alan Phu, Kiu Tai Phu, and Lisa Phu were indicted on a number of charges in connection with their scheme to recruit Mexican citizens to work in several restaurants in Texas for 12 hours a day, 6 days a week at less than minimum wage. Alan and Lisa Phu also allegedly harbored the Mexican workers in dormitory-style rooms, restricted their movements inside and outside the house, and forced them to clean the house and do yard work. In addition, they threatened the workers with their illegal status, stating that they could be arrested and/or deported if they were discovered by authorities. All four defendants are charged with conspiracy and harboring illegal aliens for commercial advantage and financial gain. Additionally, Hin Khai and Alan Phu are each charged with inducing a foreign national to enter the United States illegally and smuggling illegal aliens for commercial advantage and financial gain.

Source: Center for Women Policy Studies. "Fact Sheet on Federal Prosecutions of Trafficking Cases in the U.S. ..." <http://www.centerwomenpolicy.org/programs/trafficking/map/prosecutiondetail.cfm?state=TX#103>

### **United States v. Farrell**

Robert John Farrell and his wife, Angelita Magat Farrell, owners of a Comfort Inn & Suites hotel in Oacoma, South Dakota, were sentenced in February 2008 for peonage, document servitude, visa fraud, making false statements and conspiracy. Robert John Farrell was sentenced to 50 months of imprisonment. Angelita Magat Farrell was sentenced to 36 months of imprisonment. Each defendant also was ordered to pay a \$15,000 fine and will be placed on three years of supervised release following their respective prison terms. The jury heard from four victims who had been held in involuntary servitude by the Farrell's. After committing visa fraud to bring Filipino workers into the United States, the Farrell's then forced the workers to perform cleaning and front desk duties at their hotel as well as at local fast food restaurants. The victims described how the Farrell's controlled every aspect of the victims' lives, including what they ate, where they lived, and the hours they worked. The Farrell's hid their activities by issuing the victims paychecks, which the Farrell's then required the victims to endorse and return to the Farrell's. The victims testified that they had hoped to send money back to their children and families in the Philippines.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice: "South Dakota Hotel Owners Sentenced..." [http://www.usdoj.gov/opa/pr/2008/February/08\\_crt\\_139.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/opa/pr/2008/February/08_crt_139.html)

## **BARS, NIGHTCLUBS, AND STRIP CLUBS**

United States v. Virchenko  
United States v. Sardar and Nadira Gasanov  
United States v. Molina  
United States v. Kang  
United States v. Trakhtenberg  
United States v. Gouw and Komala  
United States v. Maksimenko and Aronov  
United States v. Prokopenko  
United States v. Medrano  
United States v. Mondragon  
United States v. Chang

### **United States v. Virchenko**

In December 2000, three defendants approached nine young female Russian folk dancers with an offer to perform at cultural festivals in the United States. The defendants also told the women that they might perform in exhibitions similar to the type of dancing done in Las Vegas shows. When the women arrived in Alaska, the defendants took their passports, visas, and return plane tickets to Russia, and told the women that they had to perform as “exotic” dancers in two strip clubs in Anchorage. The women were not permitted to talk to customers and were always accompanied by one or more of the defendants. On June 13, 2001, the defendants pled guilty to violating the Mann Act and related charges.

Source: United States Department of Justice. “Appendix II: Human Trafficking Cases, Fiscal Years 2001-2005.” <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/appendices.pdf>

### **United States v. Sardar and Nadira Gasanov**

In May 2002, the Gasanov's were sentenced to five years (60 months) in prison, followed by three years of supervised release, and ordered to pay \$516,152 in restitution for trafficking women from Uzbekistan into the United States and forcing them to work in strip clubs and bars in El Paso, Texas. After the trafficked women's documents were found in the couple's possession, they also were charged and convicted with conspiring to confiscate documents in furtherance of trafficking. The Gasanov's had fraudulently obtained visas for the women by pretending they were research scientists who would be working at the University of Texas at El Paso. The couple had enticed the trafficked women with promises of modeling jobs and the possibility of bringing family members into the United States.

Source: Center for Women Policy Studies. “Fact Sheet on Federal Prosecutions of Trafficking Cases in the U.S. ...” <http://www.centerwomenpolicy.org/programs/trafficking/map/prosecutiondetail.cfm?state=TX#103>

### **United States v. Molina**

On January 3, 2003, six defendants were sentenced in connection with a trafficking scheme that brought young women from Honduras into Texas, where they were sent to work in Fort Worth bars and nightclubs. The women were kept in apartments and houses where guards were posted to keep track of the women and to monitor their conversations. Dino Antonio Molina, Dilicia Suyapa Aguilar-Galindo and Ena Susana Aguilar-Galindo were each sentenced to 52 months in prison after pleading guilty to one count each of conspiracy to smuggle, transport, and harbor illegal aliens. Maria De Los Angeles Galindo-Carrasco was sentenced to 34 months in prison for the same charge. The other two defendants, Marco Antonio Sanchez and Steven Flores, were sentenced to 63 months in prison and 27 months in prison, respectively, for their roles in the

scheme. A separate indictment charged four additional defendants – Suyapa Herrera-Ordonez, Maria Belinda-Herrera, Constancio Frias-Carrillo, and Isabel Hernandez-Moreno – with conspiracy to harbor aliens. As a result of the investigation in August 2002, nine trafficked women were taken into INS custody.

Source: Center for Women Policy Studies. "Fact Sheet on Federal Prosecutions of Trafficking Cases in the U.S. ..." <http://www.centerwomenpolicy.org/programs/trafficking/map/prosecutiondetail.cfm?state=TX#103>

### **United States v. Kang**

The Kangs, a Korean couple, lured Korean women to New York City with promises of good jobs as hostesses in their nightclub, but then subjected them to rapes and physical abuse, held them for repayment of a debt of approximately \$10,000, and attempted to force them into prostitution. On November 18, 2005, the Kangs pled guilty to forced labor. In October 2005, five other defendants, including two Department of Homeland Security employees, pled guilty to alien smuggling, conspiracy to obstruct justice, and obstruction of justice. Three defendants received prison terms of 120 months and a fourth defendant was sentenced to 33 months in prison. Two additional defendants were sentenced to three and four years probation respectively and the seventh defendant was sentenced to time served. Two defendants were also ordered to pay \$85,976 restitution to the victims.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice: Human Trafficking Cases

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/appendices.pdf>, U.S. Department of Justice. "Attorney General's Annual Report to Congress...Fiscal Year 2006"

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2006/agreporhumantrafficking2006.pdf>

### **United States v. Trakhtenberg**

Lev Trakhtenberg, of Brooklyn, NY, pleaded guilty on December 1, 2004 to charges of conspiracy to commit forced labor, visa fraud, and immigration violations. Trakhtenberg and his wife, Viktoriya I'lina, were charged under the same indictment in August 2002. Trakhtenberg admitted his involvement in a conspiracy to induce more than 25 women to travel from Russia to the United States, where they were forced to work in strip clubs six days a week and to pay large sums of money to Trakhtenberg and his co-conspirators. In March 2005, Trakhtenberg was sentenced to 42 months in prison and was ordered to pay \$10,000 in restitution for extortion. In June 2005, he was sentenced to 60 months (5 years) in prison for the forced labor charges and was ordered to pay \$66,380 in restitution to the victims. The two prison sentences will run concurrently. Trakhtenberg also forfeited \$25,575 in assets that authorities seized from his home in 2002. In connection with the case, Sergey Malchikov pleaded guilty to the same charges and was scheduled to be sentenced January 28, 2005. Both defendants face a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

Source: Center for Women Policy Studies. "Fact Sheet on Federal Prosecutions of Trafficking Cases in the U.S. ..." <http://www.centerwomenpolicy.org/programs/trafficking/map/prosecutiondetail.cfm?state=NJ#72>

### **United States v. Gouw and Komala**

In April 2005, Hans Gouw and Harjanto Komala pled guilty to charges of conspiracy to commit sex trafficking for their roles in a scheme to recruit young Indonesian women -- some as young as 15 -- to work in the United States as exotic dancers and prostitutes. Gouw admitted that he confiscated the women's passports and monitored their movements in the house in which they lived in order to ensure that the women would work for him for at least one year. Gouw also pled guilty to charges of conspiracy to commit immigration fraud,

conspiracy to commit identification document fraud, and money laundering. Gouw and Komala were scheduled to be sentenced in July 2005; information on sentencing was unavailable as of August 15, 2005. Source: Center for Women Policy Studies. "Fact Sheet on Federal Prosecutions of Trafficking Cases in the U.S. ..." <http://www.centerwomenpolicy.org/programs/trafficking/map/prosecutiondetail.cfm?state=VA#124>

#### **United States v. Maksimenko and Aronov and United States v. Prokopenko**

##### *United States v. Maksimenko*

Following the escape of exotic dancers who sought the assistance of federal law enforcement, Aleksandr Maksimenko and Michail Aronov were indicted in February 2005 on charges of forced labor. The defendants had recruited Russian and Ukrainian women to travel to the United States, only to hold them in a condition of servitude in strip clubs in southeastern Michigan. Investigation revealed at least nine women who were held in forced labor by the defendants since 2001 through threats, force, and rape. On September 8, 2005, Aronov pled guilty to conspiracy to violate the 13th Amendment's prohibition against slavery, immigration conspiracy, and money laundering conspiracy. Aronov was sentenced to 90 months in prison and over \$1 million in restitution, as well as over \$600,000 for conspiracy. Maksimenko's wife, mother, and stepmother pled guilty to conspiracy to obstruct justice in the wake of the men's arrest.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice: Human Trafficking Cases

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/appendices.pdf>

##### *United States v. Prokopenko*

Two Ukrainian men, Evgeny Prokopenko and Alesander Bondarenko, pled guilty to visa fraud for their involvement in the trafficking scheme. In 2004, Prokopenko and Bondarenko, who were diversity visa holders, agreed to engage in false marriages with two of the dancers in order to smuggle them into the United States on behalf of Maksimenko and Prokopenko. In February 2006, Bondarenko was sentenced to 4 months incarceration for his limited involvement in the scheme. Sentencing for the remaining defendants who have pled guilty<sup>10</sup> is pending as of February 15, 2006.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice: Human Trafficking Cases

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/appendices.pdf>

#### **United States v. Medrano**

Sixteen defendants were charged with conspiracy to commit forced labor and multiple counts of forced labor and alien smuggling. Beginning in April 2003, the defendants allegedly recruited Honduran women and girls to come to the United States with promises of restaurant jobs. Once the women were smuggled into the United States, they were brought to New Jersey, where the defendants confined them in safe houses, forced them to dance with men in bars, and encouraged them to engage in prostitution to pay inflated smuggling debts. On November 16, 2005, defendant Xochil Nectalina Rosales Martinez entered a guilty plea to conspiring to commit forced labor based on her involvement in this matter. Sentencing of Rosales Martinez, and trial of the remaining defendants, is pending as of February 15, 2006.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice: Human Trafficking Cases <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/appendices.pdf>

#### **United States v. Mondragon**

Six of eight defendants in Texas have pleaded guilty in a conspiracy where women were trafficked into the United States from Honduras and El Salvador and forced to work in bars in Houston, Texas. The defendants threatened to harm the women and their families if they tried to escape or stop working in the bar. They also

used the immigration courts to control the victims by telling the women to report to immigration authorities and then confiscating legal documents denying them access to the court. This resulted in deportation orders the defendants could hold over them. The women were charged smuggling fees ranging from \$6,000 to \$14,000, that were increased by extending credit to the women and girls for housing, food, clothing, transportation, and money sent home to their families. The women were expected to reduce their debts by keeping company with male bar patrons, and encouraging them to buy beer and liquor at high prices, and to submit to sexual contact with the patrons. Almost 90 victims have been identified and are receiving assistance.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice. "Attorney General's Annual Report to Congress...Fiscal Year 2006"  
<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2006/agreporhumantrafficking2006.pdf>

### **United States v. Chang**

On October 18, 2006, Sung Bum Chang was sentenced to ten years in prison followed by three years supervised release and \$37,000 restitution. He pleaded guilty to conspiracy, forced labor, and asset forfeiture. Defendant Hyuang Kyung Chang pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting the employment of unauthorized aliens, and is to be sentenced at a later date. The defendants smuggled Korean women into the country and forced them to work as hostesses in their night club against their will. The defendants used various methods to control the women, including document confiscation, debt obligation, isolation techniques and constant surveillance. Their scheme was disrupted when one of the women escaped from a second story window and sought help from a Good Samaritan.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice Anti-Trafficking News Bulletin December 2006. [http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/trafficking\\_newsletter/antitraffnews\\_dec06.pdf](http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/trafficking_newsletter/antitraffnews_dec06.pdf)

### **PEDDLING/DOOR-TO-DOOR/BEGGING RINGS**

United States v. Paoletti-Lemus

#### **United States v. Paoletti-Lemus**

On September 27, 2006, defendants Renato Paoletti-Lemus and Jose Paoletti-Moreda were sentenced to 105 months in prison for their guilty pleas to extortion, for forcing dozens of deaf Mexicans to sell trinkets on the New York subways nearly ten years ago. The defendants were extradited to the United States following incarceration in Mexico for their role in this case. Previously, eighteen of their co-defendants pled guilty to recruiting and smuggling approximately sixty Mexican aliens, who were both deaf and unable to speak, to the United States with the promises of good jobs and for the purpose of exploiting and abusing them for profit. The Mexican aliens were forced to work under conditions of servitude peddling key chain trinkets on the streets and subways of New York City. Seventeen defendants were sentenced to terms of incarceration ranging from 11 to 168 months and one defendant was sentenced to 5 years probation.

Source: *Anti-Trafficking News Bulletin* December 2006. [http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/trafficking\\_newsletter/anti Traffnews\\_dec06.pdf](http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/trafficking_newsletter/anti Traffnews_dec06.pdf)

### **RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES (ASSISTED LIVING)**

United States v. Kaufman

#### **United States v. Kaufman**

For more than 24 years, Arlan and Linda Kaufman operated "The Kaufman House" in Newton, Kansas. Disguised as a treatment home for mentally ill patients, the Kaufman's forced and coerced patients to engage in sexually explicit acts and manual labor through threats, force, manipulation, and abuse. On June 15, 2005, charged the Kaufman's with conspiracy, forced labor, involuntary servitude, health care fraud, mail fraud, and criminal forfeiture. Arlan Kaufman was sentenced to 30 years and Linda Kaufman was sentenced to seven years in prison.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice. *Civil Rights Division: Criminal Section. "Selected Case Summaries: Human Trafficking."* <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/crim/selcases.htm#humantrafficking>

## **AGRICULTURE/FARMS**

United States v. Michael Allen Lee  
United States v. Garcia  
United States v. Ramos  
Oswaldo Ramirez v. JB Farm Labor Contractor

### **United States v. Michael Allen Lee**

Michael Lee was the leader of the “Lee Operation” which subcontracted farmers in Central and Southern Florida to find farm workers to harvest fruit. Lee, along with his conspirators, recruited homeless and drug addicted men who became indebted to him for items such as rent, food, cigarettes, and alcohol. This caused the workers to incur debts that they could not conceivably repay. Defendant Lee then used that indebtedness, as well as force and the threat of force, to compel the workers through a climate of fear to stay and work harvesting crops against their will. Workers were coerced to continue work against their will by this debt, force, and threats of force. On August 21, 2001 Lee was sentenced to a term of 48 months and three years of supervised release.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice. *United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.*

<http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/briefs/michaallee.pdf>, <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/briefs/michaallee.pdf>

### **United States v. Garcia**

In 2002, Maria Garcia, a labor contractor from the Buffalo area, and five other defendants were charged in an 18-count indictment for their participation in a scheme to recruit undocumented migrant workers from Mexico and hold them in conditions of involuntary servitude. The charges included conspiracy, trafficking workers into forced labor, transporting and harboring aliens, and violating provisions of the Migrant and Seasonal Worker Protection Act. Garcia and the other defendants forced the migrant workers to perform agricultural work in western New York and threatened them with physical harm, deportation, and arrest if they did not cooperate. This was one of the first cases brought under the forced labor and trafficking provisions of TVPA.

Source: Center for Women Policy Studies. “Fact Sheet on Federal Prosecutions of Trafficking Cases in the U.S. ...” <http://www.centerwomenpolicy.org/programs/trafficking/map/prosecutiondetail.cfm?state=NY#93>

### **United States v. Ramos**

In 2002, Ramiro Ramos and his brother, Juan Ramos, were convicted of conspiring to hold workers in involuntary servitude and of harboring undocumented workers. The Ramos brothers transported undocumented Mexican citizens to Florida to work for citrus growers. The Mexican citizens were then forced to work until they paid off their debt and were threatened with violence if they left before that time. Both brothers were sentenced to 15 years in prison, fined \$20,000, and ordered to forfeit their property valued at over \$3 million. The brothers originally were tried and received lesser sentences in 2002.

Source: Center for Women Policy Studies. “Fact Sheet on Federal Prosecutions of Trafficking Cases in the U.S. ...” <http://www.centerwomenpolicy.org/programs/trafficking/map/statelist.cfm?linktype=5&statename=Florida>

### **Oswaldo Ramirez v. JB Farm Labor Contractor**

California asparagus harvesters, numbering in the hundreds, were forced to harvest the high-priced vegetable in substandard conditions for virtually no pay on the property of Victoria Islands, an internationally known asparagus grower, during the 2000 growing season. Hired by JB Farm Labor Contractor, the workers,

## Labor Trafficking/Forced Labor Cases Prosecuted in the United States | Polaris Project

recruited mostly from Mexico, were powerless to stop the huge deductions for transportation and other “debts” the employer deducted from their weekly paychecks. In July 2002, a civil case filed by Ramirez against JB Farm Labor Contractor was settled with defendants Victoria Island Farm, LLP to pay \$546,969 and J.B. Farm Labor Contractor to pay \$100,000. The total settlement amounts include restitution, penalties, interest and attorneys' fees and costs.

Sources: *Human Rights Center, University of California, Berkeley. Freedom Denied: Forced Labor in California. “The Case against Victoria Island Farms/JB Farm Labor Contractor...” February 2005.*

<http://www.hrcberkeley.org/pdfs/freedomdenied.pdf>, Talamantes Villegas Carrera, LLP. *The Work. “Victoria Island Farms” 3 July 2002.* <http://www.talamantes.org/work.html>

## **LARGE FACTORY (CANNERIES, GARMENT, WELDING)**

United States v. Kil Soo Lee

United States v. Zavala and Ibanez

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission v. John Pickle Company, Inc

### **United States v. Kil Soo Lee**

On February 21, 2003, Kil Soo Lee was found guilty of involuntary servitude, extortion, and money laundering in American Samoa, Hawaii. Lee recruited over 200 workers from China and Vietnam for a garment factory. After paying fees to work at the factory, the victims were threatened with arrests, deportations, food deprivation and beatings and confined trafficked victims to a fenced-in compound. Lee was sentenced to 40 years in prison and in the previous year, a manager and garment worker at the factory were sentenced to six years and four years in prison, respectively.

Source: Center for Women Policy Studies. "Fact Sheet on Federal Prosecutions of Trafficking Cases in the U.S. ..."

<http://www.centerwomenpolicy.org/programs/trafficking/documents/TraffickingFederalCasesFactSheetMay2006.pdf>

### **United States v. Zavala and Ibanez**

A husband and wife pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit forced labor, document servitude, and recruiting, harboring, transporting, and housing undocumented workers, engaging in extortionate credit transactions, and transferring false alien registration cards. Between June 1, 1999, and June 21, 2004, Zavala and Ibanez orchestrated a scheme to illegally obtain visas for Peruvian aliens seeking to come into the United States. The defendants charged the aliens a smuggling fee ranging from \$6,000 to \$13,000. By confiscating their passports and threatening to turn them over to authorities, the defendants compelled the aliens to perform work in factories for them and other employers. The defendants kept most of their paychecks, leaving the aliens with approximately \$50 or less per week on which to live and support their families. More than 60 Peruvian illegal aliens, including 13 children, who were living in cramped and squalid conditions, were granted continued presence and are receiving services through a nongovernmental organization. As part of their guilty pleas, the defendants agreed to forfeit a residence valued at \$175,000 and bank accounts containing approximately \$30,000 generated through their crimes. Zavala was sentenced to 15 years of incarceration and Ibanez was sentenced to 11 years in prison. The investigation was initiated based upon information from an NGO trafficking victims group and subsequent interviews of victims conducted by ICE. This case was prosecuted by attorneys in the Civil Rights Division and the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Eastern District of New York.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice. "Attorney General's Annual Report to Congress...Fiscal Year 2006"

<http://www.usdoj.gov/ag/annualreports/tr2006/agreporhumantrafficking2006.pdf>

### **Equal Employment Opportunity Commission v. John Pickle Company, Inc**

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) charged a Tulsa, Oklahoma-based oil industry parts manufacturer, John Pickle Company (JPC), with recruiting foreign employees to the United States with assurances they would work under conditions similar to those of Americans. However, Indian witnesses testified at trial to being deceived by JPC and that once they arrived, the workers had their identification and immigration documents confiscated by JPC, were crammed into a warehouse "dormitory," and only paid between \$1.00 and \$3.17 per hour (while non-Indian employees of JPC were paid approximately \$14.00 per hour for performing the same type of skilled work). Beginning in October 2001, the Indian workers were

forced to live behind the gates of the company until escaping from the facility in February 2002 with the aid of area churches. The judge ruled that JPC was responsible for subjecting the Indian workers to fraud and deceit, inadequate pay, sub-standard living conditions, false imprisonment, lockdowns with an armed guard, phone tapping, food rationing, restrictions on freedom to worship, degrading job assignments, ethnic slurs, intimidation, and the non-payment of wages earned. The court concluded that this conduct violated Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, and 42 U.S.C. Section 1981, because the treatment was based on the national origin of the foreign workers. In May 2006, John Pickle was ordered to pay \$1.24 million to 52 foreign nationals.

Source: *The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission*. "Judge Orders John Pickle Co..." 26 May 2006. <http://www.eeoc.gov/press/5-26-06.html>

**PENDING**

United States v. Afolabi  
United States v. Gloria Eugenia Leon-Aldana  
United States v. Navarrete  
United States v. Signal International

**United States v. Afolabi**

Lassissi Afolabi, Akouavi Kpade Afolabi, and Dereck Hounakey were charged in August 2007 with smuggling at least 20 girls and young women from the West African nation of Togo and forcing them to work at hair braiding salons in Newark and East Orange. The females told investigators that they worked without pay for up to 14 hours a day, six or seven days a week. They said that if they complained or did not follow the rules, they would be beaten. And they were threatened to be sent back to Africa if they objected to working without pay. The 20 females were placed in protective custody where they had access to emergency housing and counseling. The three defendants face charges of harboring illegal aliens, which carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison. Kpade Afolabi is also charged with smuggling illegal aliens for financial gains, which can be punished by 10 years in prison.

Source: News24.com. "'Modern slavery' at hair salon"

[http://www.news24.com/News24/World/News/0,,2-10-1462\\_2179266,00.html](http://www.news24.com/News24/World/News/0,,2-10-1462_2179266,00.html)

**United States v. Gloria Eugenia Leon-Aldana**

On January 17, 2008 Gloria Eugenia Leon-Aldana plead guilty in San Diego, CA to charges including bringing in aliens for financial gain and forced labor. In the previous week, co-defendants Juan Andres-Santos and Agustin Alonso-Terrero pleaded guilty to bringing in aliens for financial gain. Leon-Aldana was a part of an alien smuggling operation recruiting aliens from Mexico, smuggling aliens into the United States to San Diego, and forcing labor through a series of threats including calls to Border Patrol. Her co-defendants also threatened the victims and their families with physical harm. Andres-Santos was sentenced to time served (13 months) and three years of supervised release with Alonso-Terrero's sentencing pending.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice. Office of the United States Attorney: Southern District of California, San Diego. <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cas/press/cas80117-Leon-Aldana.pdf>

**United States v. Navarrete**

In January 2008, six family members from Immokalee, Florida were indicted for enslaving Mexican and Guatemalan immigrants and forcing them into agricultural labor. According to the 17-count indictment, Cesar Navarrete and Geovanni Navarrete beat, threatened, restrained and locked workers in trucks to force them to work for them as agricultural laborers. The defendants underpaid the workers and imposed escalating debts on them, threatening physical harm if workers left their employment before their debts had been repaid. Cesar, Geovanni, Jose, Villhina, Ismael and Michael Navarrete and Antonia Zuniga Vargas are also charged with harboring undocumented foreign nationals for private financial gain, commercial advantage, document fraud, and identity theft. If convicted, Geovanni and Cesar Navarrete each face maximum sentences of over 200 years imprisonment. Antonia Zuniga Vargas and Villhina Navarrete face imprisonment of 40 years, and Jose and Michael Navarrete face imprisonment of 42 years.

Source: DOJ. "Immokalee, Florida, Family Charged."

<http://tampa.fbi.gov/dojpressrel/2008/farmlabor011708.htm>

**United States v. Signal International**

## Labor Trafficking/Forced Labor Cases Prosecuted in the United States | Polaris Project

In March 2008, a group of about 100 Indian victims of human trafficking quit work for Signal International at the Pascagoula shipyard in Mississippi. They were recruited by Dewan Consultants of Mumbai, and brought by Signal, a marine construction company, to the United States over a year ago and made to live and work in abysmal conditions. The workers, mainly welders and pipe-fitters, were lured with promises of green cards to agree to come on H2B visas meant for temporary workers to meet the labor shortage in the region caused by Hurricane Katrina. They claim they paid up to \$20,000 each to recruiters. The nature of their visas prevented them from working for any other company, leaving the constant threat of deportation hanging over their heads. The workers met officials of the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on Friday and are calling for the U.S. to prosecute Signal for human trafficking and the Indian government to punish the recruiter. They also plan to report themselves to the Department of Justice as trafficking victims. Signal brought almost 600 workers from India in end 2006 to Pascagoula and its other facility in Texas. Besides those who quit, 200 other Indians are still working under similar conditions at the shipyard.

Source: SifyNews. "Ravi to Support Indian trafficking victims in US." 10 March 2008.

<http://sify.com/news/nri/fullstory.php?id=14619525>

Polaris Project works to empower and mobilize people from diverse backgrounds and of all ages to take meaningful action against human trafficking. Register with [www.polarisproject.org/signup](http://www.polarisproject.org/signup) to receive regular updates on human trafficking in the United States.