

# 1. Bvi & Usvi Must Collaborate To Combat Human Trafficking

2<sup>nd</sup> May 2015 website entry

Premier, Dr. the Hon. D. Orlando Smith announced that the issue of human trafficking is a matter of concern for both the United States V.I. and British Virgin Islands, and he explained why it was important that the two Territories work closely together to safeguard against perpetrators of this crime.

Speaking to the media at a press briefing on 21 April, the BVI Leader announced that the close proximity of the two islands places them at risk for the trafficking. He said: “The fact that we are close to the United States Virgin Islands concerns the United States I’m sure; because of the ease of travel between United States Virgin Islands and British Virgin Islands.”

In explaining the lure the two Territories might have on the human smugglers, Premier Smith explained: “Many people who bring people illegally in an attempt to get them to the United States Virgin Islands quite often land people in the BVI and quite often tell them they are already in the United States Virgin Islands.”

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## **21.1. 2017 web entry for BVI Free Press**

**PHILLIPSBURG, Saint Maarten** — Two employees of the Dutch immigration service were arrested suspected of human smuggling, bribery and abuse of their post this week.

A person with the initials “K.L.M.B.” (34) and a person with the initials “A.A.D.” (33) were arrested around 6:20 am. on Tuesday.

The arrests are the result of a lengthy investigation that has been ongoing since April 2016, code-named “Operation Ostrich,” according to Dutch authorities.

“Operation Ostrich” is an investigation carried out by the Human Trafficking Unit and Human Smuggling of the St. Maarten Police Force, KPSM into the illegal importation of Jamaicans and Haitians.

The arrests were carried out by members of the Human Trafficking Unit in conjunction with the National Detectives Agency, the Dutch agencies said in a joint release.

On November 14, 2016, another employee of the immigration service, a person with the initials “J.M.” was arrested in the same investigation. She is still detained while her partner, a man with the initials “D.F.” who was also arrested has been released from pre-trial detention. He remains a suspect in the ongoing investigation.

According to the United Nations, human trafficking is now the third most profitable criminal enterprise in the world after weapons smuggling and drug smuggling. Every year, an estimated two million children worldwide are exploited in sex trafficking operations.

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## **DOJ Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS)**

Created in 1987 to address child pornography, child sexual abuse, and international parental kidnapping, their mission is to protect the welfare of children by enforcing federal criminal statutes relating to the exploitation of children. Their High Technology Investigative Unit computer forensic specialists help DOJ attorneys investigate defendants in 94 US Attorneys Offices.



## **DOJ's Project Safe Childhood**

Project Safe Childhood is a unified and comprehensive strategy to combat child exploitation, initiated in 2006, combining law enforcement efforts, community action, and public awareness. The goal of this project is to reduce the incidence of sexual exploitation of children. In FY 2009, 2,315 indictments were filed against 2,437 people.



## **PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008**

Congress passed the Providing Resources, Officers, and Technology to Eradicate Cyber Threats to Our Children (PROTECT) Act in 2008 and established the National Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force program.



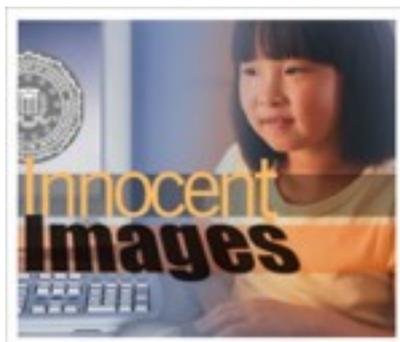
## **FBI Innocence Lost National Initiative (ILNI)**

ILNI was created in 2003 by DOJ and the FBI's Criminal Investigative Division, to review and analyze all intelligence received by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children through their intake and Cyber Tips reports.



## **FBI Operation Cross Country I - X**

ILNI Task Forces share intelligence concerning pimps, juveniles used in prostitution, and criminal enterprises. Operation Cross Country is the "round-up" of subjects. In October 2016, Operation Cross Country X occurred across the US, with the recovery of 82 sexually exploited juveniles and the arrests of 239 pimps and sex traffickers. This operation involved more than 400 law enforcement agencies.



## **FBI Innocent Image National Initiative (IINI)**

The FBI's IINI was established in 1995 to combat the online sexual exploitation of children. 70% of IINI cases focus on investigating criminal enterprises and producers of online child pornography.



## DHS Blue Campaign

DHS coordinates their human trafficking initiatives through their Blue Campaign. The campaign name references the global anti-human trafficking symbols Blue Heart and Blue Blindfold.



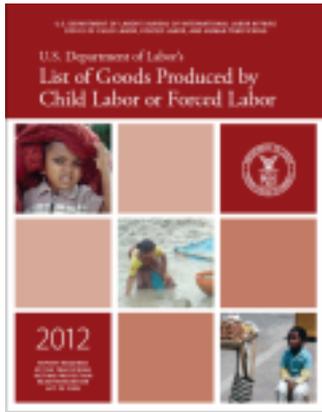
## DHS Hidden in Plain Sight Campaign

This public awareness campaign is in 14 US cities in eight languages and has led to many new case openings by DHS.



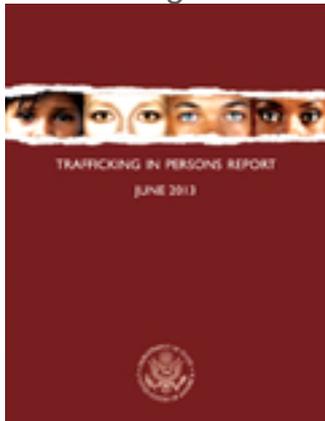
## HHS Rescue & Restore Program

The Rescue & Restore campaign raises public awareness on the issue of human trafficking, through the use of NGOs, academics, students, law enforcement in 24 cities, regions and states.



## Department of Labor Annual Report

DOL's Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking (OCFT) was created in 1993 in response to a request from Congress to investigate and report on child labor around the world. They publish an annual report on their findings.



## Department of State Annual TIP Report

DOS produces an annual report which ranks a country on how well they are addressing the crime of human trafficking. It defines all the different types of human trafficking and is an excellent resource tool.