

# Homeland Security Investigations



Homeland  
Security

# HSI

*Sir G. Streeter*  
*Group Supervisor*

*SAC Atlanta*

*404.346.2885*

*sir.streeter@dhs.gov*



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

## HSI Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons

**United States Department of Homeland Security  
Immigration and Customs Enforcement  
Homeland Security Investigations**

**September 21-23, 2011**

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## Objectives

- Labor trafficking overview
- Labor Trafficking Case Study

Bidemi Bello Investigation

- Labor Trafficking Trends

Employment Agencies/Restaurants



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## Homeland Security Investigations

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) is the largest investigative agency under the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS). ICE/HSI was established on March 1, 2003 in the wake of the events of September 11, 2001.

DHS is responsible for enforcing a wide range of crimes related to border security, including conducting domestic and international investigations on human trafficking.



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## DHS Blue Campaign



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## GOALS

- Comprised of representatives from 17 operational and support components from across the Department of Homeland Security; Customs and Border Protection, Border Patrol, Citizenship and Immigration Services, HHS, etc.
- Prevention
- Protection
- Prosecution
- Partnership

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## DHS Blue Campaign



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## Prevention

- To prevent human trafficking, the Department conducts public outreach both domestically and abroad. Domestic public outreach helps identify victims of human trafficking by raising general awareness and encouraging the public to report suspected instances of human trafficking; international public outreach raises awareness among potential trafficking victims seeking employment or other opportunities in the United States, who may fall prey to the lures of human traffickers.

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## Protection

- To protect victims, the Department provides immigration assistance in the form of Continued Presence, T visas and U visas; employs Victim Assistance Specialists who work in tandem with law enforcement and non-governmental service providers throughout the country; and actively offers a number of victim assistance materials informing potential victims of their rights and how to receive help if they are violated.

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## Prosecution

- To increase prosecutions of traffickers, the Department trains thousands of federal, state, local and international law enforcement officials annually to recognize the indicators of human trafficking and to conduct successful human trafficking investigations. The Department also pursues an active and aggressive domestic and overseas human trafficking investigations program led by ICE/HSI.

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## DHS Blue Campaign



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## Partnership

- Effective partnerships are the key component of the Department's Blue Campaign. Secretary Napolitano is committed to fighting human trafficking through effective collaboration: "Human trafficking is global problem that requires a global solution." Through the Blue Campaign, the Department works closely with domestic and international partners spanning federal, state, and local government; non-governmental organizations; and the private sector.

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## Introduction to Labor Trafficking

- Sectors of economy where labor trafficking may occur:
  - Agricultural/Migrant Farm work
  - Domestic Servitude
  - Construction
  - Maid/Hotel Services
  - Exotic Dance Clubs
  - Bar Services
  - Restaurants
  - Landscaping
  - Salons
  - Sweatshops/Factories
  - Peddling/Begging



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## Domestic Servitude Case Study



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# Bidemi Bello Labor Trafficking Investigation

**Bidemi Bello aka  
“Wasilat O.  
Williams”**

Sold the dream of  
Education and a  
Life in United  
States to fellow  
Nigerians

Reality: Forced  
Labor



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## Domestic Servitude Case Study



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# Bidemi Bello Labor Trafficking Investigation



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## Domestic Servitude Case Study

# Bidemi Bello Labor Trafficking Investigation

### Compelling Labor and Services

- No Bed
- Insurmountable Work



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Domestic  
Servitude  
Case Study



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## Bidemi Bello Labor Trafficking Investigation



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## Bidemi Bello Labor Trafficking Investigation



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## Domestic Servitude Case Study



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# Bidemi Bello Labor Trafficking Investigation

## Compelling Labor and Services

- No Bed
- Insurmountable Work
- Bathe in a Bucket
- No Modern Appliances
- Demeaning Treatment
- No Rest

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## Domestic Servitude Case Study



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# Bidemi Bello Labor Trafficking Investigation



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## Domestic Servitude Case Study



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# Bidemi Bello Labor Trafficking Investigation

## Compelling Labor and Services

- Contacts all through Bello
- Lies in Church
- Punishment
- No Money/No Education
- Threaten with Jail

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# Bidemi Bello Labor Trafficking Investigation

- Witnesses who observed victims working
- Witness who saw Bello hitting and slapping the victims



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## Bidemi Bello Labor Trafficking Investigation



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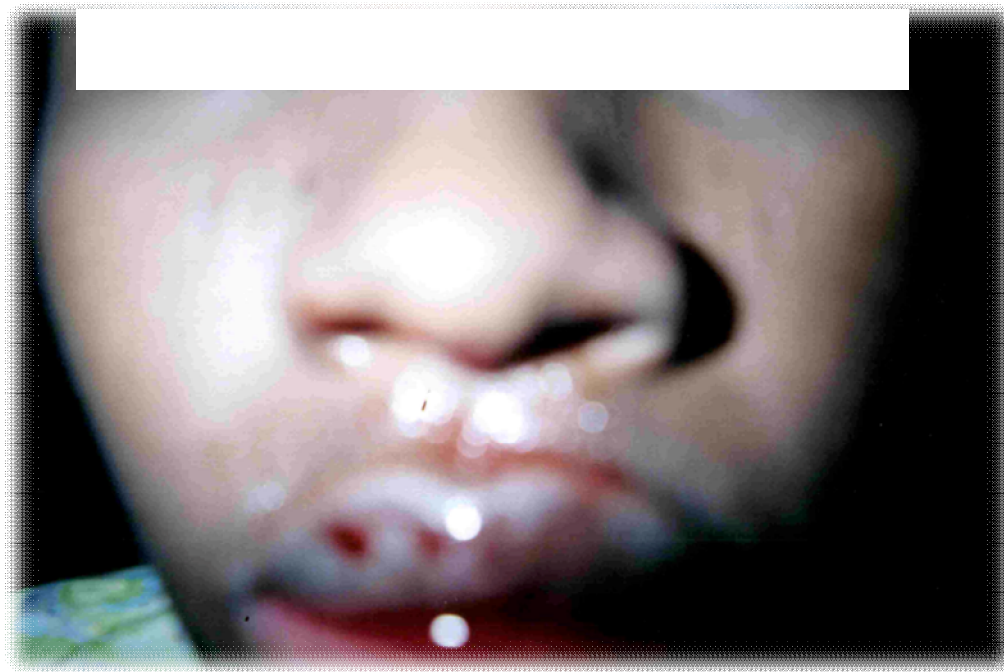
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## Bidemi Bello Labor Trafficking Investigation



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## Domestic Servitude Case Study



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# Bidemi Bello Labor Trafficking Investigation

## Charges Filed

- Alien Harboring
- Document Servitude
- Human Trafficking
- Procuring Naturalization with False Statements

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# Bidemi Bello Labor Trafficking Investigation

## Investigative Approach

- Victim centered philosophy
- Victim is the key to the case
- Do Not** deport victims
- Provide temporary permits to victims of trafficking in individual cases

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## Domestic Servitude Case Study



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# Bidemi Bello Labor Trafficking Investigation

## Investigative Approach

- First victim never reported to law enforcement
- Citizen rescued her
- Agents tracked her down; victim reaction
- Working in Atlanta; testified at trial; very compelling

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# Bidemi Bello Labor Trafficking Investigation

## Investigative Approach

- Second victim escaped to a church
- Church called Refugee agencies who referred her to Non-governmental agency that works with victims of trafficking
- Non-governmental agency referred her to Federal Bureau of Investigation and Department of Homeland Security
- Non-governmental agency broke the case and assisted victims in obtaining temporary visas and shelter

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## Domestic Servitude Case Study



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# Bidemi Bello Labor Trafficking Investigation

**Bidemi Bello aka  
"Wasilat O. Williams"**

Dream: Education and a  
Life in United States

Reality: Forced Labor

Jury Convicted June,  
2011

Sentencing October 2011



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## Labor Trafficking Trends



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# Employment Agencies

## Employment Agencies/Restaurants

Sells the dream of  
employment in United  
States to  
Undocumented  
Immigrants

Reality: Forced  
Labor/Worker  
Exploitation



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## Employment Agencies

- **Associated with “coyotes” and “snakeheads” in smuggling undocumented persons through Mexico**
- **Recruited Hispanic and Asian nationals for employment in Chinese restaurants**
- **Harbored and transported undocumented workers to Chinese restaurants throughout the United States**
- **Charged expensive fees to workers for job placement**

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## Labor Trafficking Trends



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# Employment Agencies

- Chinese newspaper advertisements
- Employment contracts between employment agency, restaurant, and worker

**東昇 人力資源培訓 餐館職工介紹**  
Tel: 770-454-8558  
聯絡人: Mari - P.O. Box 669032, Atlanta, GA 30366-6632

**雇主資料**  
商號名稱: CHEN'S Buffet  
負責人: Mr. New Haven  
電話: 203-871-8888 / 646-704-3730  
地址: 86 BOSTON POST ROAD, ORANGE CT 06477

**員工資料**  
Nombre 姓名: ALEX  
Cargo 職別: Cook  
Salario 薪水: 17.00  
Comision 佣金: 10.00  
Gastos de Viaje 車費: 50.00  
Otros 其它: 30.00  
Total 總計: 340.00

Firma 簽名: X  
Social Security Card Required.

**派工單** 03/27/08  
雇員資料/Employee Info  
Name 姓名: Alex  
Age 年齡: 21  
Position 職位: Cook  
Working Permit 工作許可: No  
Salary 薪水: 17.00  
Total: 340.00

I need the employer pay the commission for me when I arrive and understand that the payment will be deducted from my first payment by the employer. If I can NOT find as to 8 days of work, I may not be able to receive any payment. Employment Agency has no obligation for any payment if I can NOT fulfill this job in any circumstances. Commission is NOT refundable. I may not be employed if I cannot show my legal employment authorization documents to the employer.

Como trabajo, comisión será descontado de mi pago inicial. Sin embargo, si no puedo encontrar a días de trabajo, no puedo ser capaz de recibir cualquier pago del patron. Employment Agency no tiene ninguna obligación para cualquier pago si no puedo realizar este trabajo en ninguna circunstancia. La comisión no es reembolsable. No puedo ser empleado si no puedo mostrar mis documentos de autorización de empleo legal al patron.

Employee Signature/Firma: X  
雇主資料/Employer Info.  
餐館名稱: CHEN'S Buffet  
餐館電話: 203-871-8888  
地址: 86 BOSTON POST ROAD, ORANGE CT 06477  
手機電話: 646-704-3730

Employment Agency (餐館介紹所) only provides employment leads and has no ability or responsibility to prove employee's personal authorized employment documentation. Employer should file form I-9 to complete any employee's employment eligibility verifications within 3 business days after employment, according to I-9 regulation.

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## Employment Agencies

- **Exploitation and trafficking of restaurant workers by owners**
- **Employment agency owners, restaurant owners and drivers arrested and charged with alien smuggling (Title 8, United States Code 1324)**



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# Agricultural/Construction Labor

- **Undocumented workers exploited by farmers, and construction contractors**
- **Usually paid poor wages and are housed in squalid conditions by employers**

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[sir.streeter@dhs.gov](mailto:sir.streeter@dhs.gov)

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## U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

### INFORMACION DE CONTACTO

Dwayne Vanatta

Agregado de Investigaciones de  
Seguridad Nacional

Embajada de los EEUU

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Tel: 54-11-5777-4750

Fax: 54-11-5777-4489

[Dwayne.Vanatta@dhs.gov](mailto:Dwayne.Vanatta@dhs.gov)



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