

Homeland Security Investigations



Homeland
Security

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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, HIS, etc.
- Prevention
- Protection
- Prosecution
- Partnership

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DHS Blue Campaign

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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DHS Blue
Campaign

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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Campaign

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**



*Labor trafficking comes in many forms and is most likely occurring in your geographical area

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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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Bidemi Bello Labor Trafficking Investigation

Domestic
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Case Study



1252 Fieldcrest Court
Suwanee, Ga 30024



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Bidemi Bello Labor Trafficking Investigation

Compelling Labor and Services

- No Bed
- Insurmountable Work



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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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Bidemi Bello Labor Trafficking Investigation

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6431 Sweet Laurel Run
Sugar Hill, GA 30518



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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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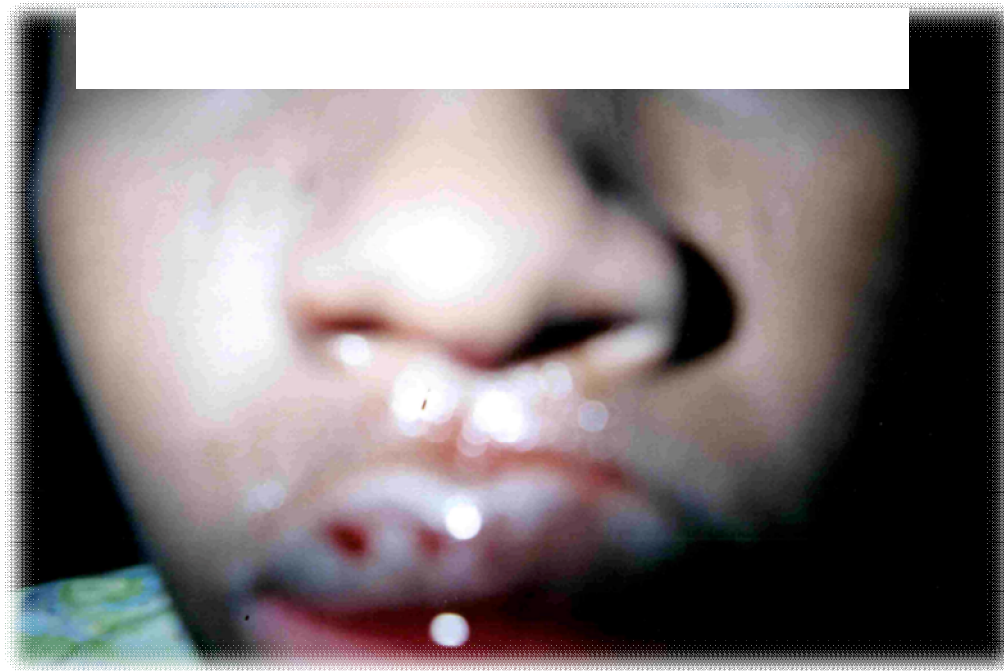
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Charges Filed

- 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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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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Case Study

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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Labor Trafficking Trends

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

Employment Agencies

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



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派工單 03 47 H 08

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

雇員資料 / Employee Info

Name / Nombre	Alex		
Age > 18	SI	No	Cargo / Position
Working Permit	SI	No	Salary / Salario
介紹費/Commission:	其他/Otros:		
总计/Total:	4370		

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 finish 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.

Cuando trabajo, comisión será descontado de mi pago inicial. Sin embargo, si no puedo terminar el día 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 se reintegrará, no puedo ser empleado si no puedo mostrar mis documentos de autorización de empleo legal al patron.

Employer Signature/Firma: X MBAM

雇主資料/ Employer Info.

餐館名稱	餐館電話
位置	手機電話

Employment Agency (雇主介紹所) 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.

Social Security Card Required.



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Labor Trafficking Trends

- **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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Labor
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Trends

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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