AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

A PATHWAY TO FREEDOM: RESCUE AND REFUGE FOR SEX TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA, GLOBAL HEALTH, GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS, AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

MAY 14, 2015

Serial No. 114–67

Printed for the use of the Committee on Foreign Affairs

Available via the World Wide Web: http://www.foreignaffairs.house.gov/ or http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/

U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

94–608PDF WASHINGTON : 2015

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Publishing Office
Internet: bookstore.gpo.gov Phone: toll free (866) 512–1800; DC area (202) 512–1800
Fax: (202) 512–2104 Mail: Stop IDCC, Washington, DC 20402–0001

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

EDWARD R. ROYCE, California, *Chairman*

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, New Jersey
ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, Florida
DANA ROHRABACHER, California
STEVE CHABOT, Ohio
JOE WILSON, South Carolina
MICHAEL T. McCAUL, Texas
TED POE, Texas
MATT SALMON, Arizona
DARRELL E. ISSA, California
TOM MARINO, Pennsylvania
JEFF DUNCAN, South Carolina
MO BROOKS, Alabama
PAUL COOK, California
RANDY K. WEBER SR., Texas
SCOTT PERRY, Pennsylvania
RON DeSANTIS, Florida
MARK MEADOWS, North Carolina
TED S. YOHO, Florida
CURT CLAWSON, Florida
SCOTT DesJARLAIS, Tennessee
REID J. RIBBLE, Wisconsin
DAVID A. TROTT, Michigan
LEE M. ZELDIN, New York
TOM EMMER, Minnesota

ELIOT L. ENGEL, New York
BRAD SHERMAN, California
GREGORY W. MEEKS, New York
ALBIO SIRES, New Jersey
GERALD E. CONNOLLY, Virginia
THEODORE E. DEUTCH, Florida
BRIAN HIGGINS, New York
KAREN BASS, California
WILLIAM KEATING, Massachusetts
DAVID CICILLINE, Rhode Island
ALAN GRAYSON, Florida
AMI BERA, California
ALAN S. LOWENTHAL, California
GRACE MENG, New York
LOIS FRANKEL, Florida
TULSI GABBARD, Hawaii
JOAQUIN CASTRO, Texas
ROBIN L. KELLY, Illinois
BRENDAN F. BOYLE, Pennsylvania

AMY PORTER, *Chief of Staff* THOMAS SHEEHY, *Staff Director*
JASON STEINBAUM, *Democratic Staff Director*

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA, GLOBAL HEALTH, GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS, AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH, New Jersey, *Chairman*

MARK MEADOWS, North Carolina
CURT CLAWSON, Florida
SCOTT DesJARLAIS, Tennessee
TOM EMMER, Minnesota

KAREN BASS, California
DAVID CICILLINE, Rhode Island
AMI BERA, California

CONTENTS

Page

WITNESSES

The Honorable Sean Reyes, attorney general, State of Utah 5
Mr. Tim Ballard, founder and chief executive officer, Operation Underground Railroad 16
Ms. Karla Jacinto Romero, survivor of human trafficking and advocate, Commission United vs. Trafficking 23
The Honorable Rosi Orozco, president, Commission United vs. Trafficking (former Mexican Congresswoman) 26

LETTERS, STATEMENTS, ETC., SUBMITTED FOR THE HEARING

The Honorable Sean Reyes: Prepared statement 11
Mr. Tim Ballard: Prepared statement 20
Ms. Karla Jacinto Romero: Prepared statement 24
The Honorable Rosi Orozco: Prepared statement 29

APPENDIX

Hearing notice 46
Hearing minutes 47

A PATHWAY TO FREEDOM: RESCUE AND REFUGE FOR SEX TRAFFICKING VICTIMS

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2015

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AFRICA, GLOBAL HEALTH,
GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS, AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC.

The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:25 p.m., in room 2172, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Christopher H. Smith (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Mr. SMITH. The hearing will come to order, and good afternoon. It is an honor to be here with you today focusing on the fight against human trafficking, an insidious human rights abuse that thrives in an environment of secrecy, of silence, of acquiescence, complacency, and of a mindset that says that it is somehow somebody else's business. The truth of the matter is that combating modern day slavery is everybody's business. We are all in this together. Cooperation and coordination are key to mitigating and someday ending this pervasive cruelty.

Significant progress has been made since I authored landmark legislation known as the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to combat sex and labor trafficking in the United States and globally. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 and its 2003 and 2005 reauthorizations, which I also sponsored, launched a bold new strategy that included sheltering, political asylum, and other protections for the victims, long jail sentences and asset confiscation for the traffickers, and tough sanctions for governments that failed to meet minimum standards prescribed in the legislation. And for the first time ever, the law recognized, and this was a sea change effort, the exploited women, children, and men, as victims, not as perpetrators of the crime.

Since 2004, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act has resulted in anti-human trafficking task forces in 42 cities across the U.S. These task forces identify potential victims of human trafficking, coordinate local and Federal law enforcement to rescue victims, assist with referrals for victim care, and train law enforcement.

Today's hearing will concentrate on rescue and refuge. In January 2000, I received actionable information that eight Ukrainian women were being exploited by sex traffickers in two bars in Montenegro. The women had been lured there with promises of legitimate work, then forced into prostitution. One desperate victim, however, called her mother for help using the phone of one of the

men that was exploiting her. When informed, I immediately called the Prime Minister of Montenegro, Filip Vujanović, who personally ordered an immediate raid on the bar. As a result, I was told, don't let the local police go. They are on the take. They exploit the women. They are getting money from this nefarious establishment. So he sent his own police to rescue, and as a result, seven of the eight women were rescued and returned to their families in Ukraine. Tragically, the eighth woman was trafficked to Albania prior to the raid.

We now know that organized crime, street gangs, pimps around the world, have expanded into sex trafficking at an alarming rate. It is an extremely lucrative undertaking. A trafficker can make hundreds of thousands of dollars a year off just one victim. Unlike drugs or weapons, a human being can be held captive and sold into sexual slavery over and over and over again, turned into a commodity. Pornography and the devaluation of women are helping to drive this demand. And while our Departments of Justice and Homeland Security work with law enforcement abroad in sting operations to catch American pedophile sex tourists and to rescue victims, where there is a nexus with the United States, they cannot conduct rescue operations or run investigations that fall outside of their jurisdiction.

Nevertheless there are victims, someone's young son or daughter, today being cruelly exploited. Into this gap step nongovernmental rescue operations. Some of the best are staffed by former Navy SEALS, ex-CIA agents, and even the occasional sitting member of a State Government. That is what we will hear about today, from witnesses that include a former CIA agent now involved in rescuing the most vulnerable, as well as from a sitting attorney general. We will hear from a former Member of the Mexican Congress who has fought trafficking her entire career, and we will hear from a victim of trafficking who will also tell us about the importance of refuge and rehabilitation following the rescue.

Operation Underground Railroad has made it their business literally and figuratively to identify children being sex trafficked into other countries and then to partner with the relevant foreign governments and their entities for the rescue and rehab of those children.

Operation Underground Railroad members frequently pose as American sex tourists who enlist traffickers to host sex parties for them. It is a common occurrence in many Latin American nations and it provides the perfect cover for Operation Underground Railroad to lure the traffickers with the children for sale to a preset location and then have the local authorities ready to bust the traffickers as well as to rescue the kids. Operation Underground Railroad also trains the local governments on how to conduct sting operations on traffickers and on the rehabilitative needs of those trafficking victims.

I want to thank our witnesses in advance for their extraordinary and courageous activity on behalf of these vulnerable people, especially kids, especially women who are at risk. You have made an enormous difference. And the country, the United States, the Congress, and the world, really needs to hear what you are doing so

that these great actions can be replicated so that more people will be rescued.

I would like to now yield to my good friend and colleague, the gentlelady from California, Ms. Bass.

Ms. BASS. Thank you, Mr. Chair, as always for your leadership on this issue and so many other issues. I also want to thank our distinguished guests who took the time to be here with us today. During this hearing I look forward to discussing strategies to address sex trafficking as an issue that we are dealing with here in the United States as well as abroad. And hopefully we can embrace an inclusive approach that acknowledges the international nature of this. It is also important to note, unfortunately, that U.S. nationals are also perpetrators of sex crimes abroad, and I will be particularly interested in hearing about that since I know that a couple of you are involved in that.

We know that the issue affects millions of adults and children, men, and women worldwide who are victimized across a wide range of commercial sex and forced labor schemes. In the United States and in my congressional district and in some cities, the population that is particularly vulnerable, especially the child population, to sex trafficking, are kids in the child welfare system; that is an issue that we are concerned about in my city but we have also worked on in a bipartisan basis.

I had an experience a couple of years ago of having a young foster child, former foster child, who told me that her experience being in the child welfare system actually she felt prepared her to be trafficked because she was so used to being moved around place to place, and people who were involved with her were all paid to be with her. And so we know that this story here is far too common. And in a bipartisan effort to drastically decrease the number of foster youth who experience this horrible exploitation, I have reintroduced legislation called Strengthening the Child Welfare Response to Trafficking Act this year. The legislation passed the House unanimously, and over in the Senate, the language from that bill was put in a bill. And Mr. Chair, you might know that that is coming back our way next week, and we hope to have it on the President's desk very soon.

So I look forward to your testimony today and how we can learn from what you have done around the world and how we can apply your experiences and lessons here in the United States. Thank you.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you, Ms. Bass.

I would like to now recognize Mr. Emmer.

Mr. EMMER. Thank you, Mr. Chair, and also Ranking Member Bass, for holding this important hearing. I can think of no better place than this subcommittee when it comes to highlighting the atrocious crime of human trafficking. You should both be commended for your leadership on this issue.

When Boko Haram terrorists kidnapped hundreds of teenage girls with the intent of selling them off into slavery, the offense sparked international outrage and inspired action here in the halls of Congress. I want to thank the ranking member and Robin Kelly from this committee, as well as Congresswomen Jackson Lee and Wilson for their persistence and leadership on that front.

Unfortunately not all trafficking cases make the international news. Every day children across the world are taken from their family, from their homes, and sold and enslaved, forced into labor and prostitution against their will. As a father of seven children myself, I cannot begin to fathom the agony their families must be experiencing. The United States, to our collective shame, is not immune to this tragedy. In America alone, hundreds of thousands are trafficked in by transnational drug cartels and criminal organizations. The Justice Department estimates that there are more than 200,000 children across the U.S. that are "at risk of trafficking." Human trafficking is nearly a $30 billion per year criminal enterprise with thousands of innocent children trafficked annually.

I am pleased that Congress, in coordination with the Obama administration, has made great strides in combating trafficking, but there is still much work to be done to help victims improve prosecutions, and prevent men, women, and children from being targeted by predators. This body must do everything within its power and authority to stay one step ahead of those involved in these crimes against humanity. As a Congress we must prioritize funding to support NGOs such as the ones before us today, nonprofits, and State and Federal prosecutors, to see the best practices and methods of prevention, protection, and prosecution.

One way we can combat trafficking is through safe harbor laws that have been instituted across the country, including in my home State of Minnesota. By protecting victims and assisting prosecutors, by pursuing safe harbor laws at the national level, we can better respond to this national crisis. The words spoken here today cannot be merely symbolic gestures. They must be followed by action and constant vigilance. Our children deserve nothing less.

I want to thank our witnesses and the concerned citizens in attendance for your continued efforts in this fight, and with that I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you very much, Mr. Emmer.

I would like to recognize my good friend and colleague, Mr. Clawson, from Florida.

Mr. CLAWSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member, for doing this hearing about such a tragic global situation. It is hard to even fathom. And I would like to reiterate the words of my friend, Mr. Emmer, I think it is time to bring home the African kidnapped girls and, you know, bring home the girls. And I know that is not the topic today, but bring home the girls. And we need to do everything we can on that.

To the guests, you all are doing more than just talking, and I respect action; so thank you for what you all do and the example that you set. And we ought to learn from that, and others ought to learn from that. And to Senorita Karlita, Karla [speaking foreign language].

Thank you.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you very much, Mr. Clawson.

I would like to now introduce our very distinguished witnesses and invite them to testify. Beginning first, it is my very high honor and privilege to recognize and welcome the Honorable Sean Reyes, who today serves as the 21st attorney general of Utah, first appointed and then elected, but first appointed in 2013. Attorney

General Reyes has received attention locally and nationally for transforming the Utah attorney general's office and for his very direct involvement in bringing traffickers to justice both in Utah and in South America. Last year, for example he traveled with Operation Underground Railroad to participate in a covert sting where he posed as a bodyguard and translator to help liberate over 100 children from a sex trafficking ring. A public official who doesn't just implement or enforce the law, but actually gets right there face-to-face with the horrific tragedy, preventable tragedy, of sex trafficking and helps to rescue those kids.

We will then hear from Mr. Timothy Ballard who is the founder and CEO of Operation Underground Railroad and serves as its jump team commander for rescue operations. Mr. Ballard has worked at the Central Intelligence Agency and as a special agent for the Department of Homeland Security where he was assigned to the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and deployed as an undercover operative for the U.S. Child Sex Tourism Jump Team. He has worked every type of case imaginable in the United States and in multiple foreign countries in the fight to dismantle, disrupt, and bring to justice these terrible child trafficking rings, so thank you.

Then we will hear from Ms. Karla Jacinto Romero who is now 22 years old and a survivor of human trafficking which she suffered from the age of 12 to the age of 16. Today Karla is a happy and successful mother of two beautiful girls, a wife, a student, and an international activist. She has shared her strong message against human trafficking with the Mexican House of Representatives, in the United Kingdom, in Rome, as well as in the Vatican. She helps rebuild the dreams of other human trafficking survivors by both her words and by her example, encouraging them to overcome and to love life and to trust their neighbors again.

We will then hear from Ms. Rosi Orozco who is currently the president of the Commission United vs. Trafficking. Since 1990, she has worked to promote and defend human rights through several associations, particularly in the prevention and treatment of combating human trafficking, crime prevention, social development, and strengthening families. She has also acted as Federal Deputy and the President of the Special Commission for the Fight Against Human Trafficking in the Mexican House of Representatives and was the main proponent of the Law Initiative to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate the Offenses on Trafficking in Persons and to Protect and Assist the Victims of these crimes, which became law in Mexico. Fellow lawmaker, welcome, and thank you for your leadership. Mr. Attorney General, the floor is yours.

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE SEAN REYES, ATTORNEY GENERAL, STATE OF UTAH

Mr. REYES. Thank you, Mr. Chair, members of the committee. It is an absolute honor to be with you today along with these distinguished witnesses to address what I consider to be one of the greatest evils plaguing our world today, specifically child sexual slavery, or the trafficking of children for sex exploitation. As the attorney general of the great State of Utah, I am the highest ranking prosecutor in our State and in this capacity familiar with all manner

of crimes. I oversee approximately 80 certified peace officers who serve as investigators for the State, either full-time or from partner agencies that are affiliates of our Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force or Secure Strike Force, both multi-agency teams under the AG's office, focused on combating crimes such as child sexual abuse, exploitation, and child pornography, and disrupting the trafficking of women and children for various reasons, including sex and sex exploitation.

While I believe trafficking of persons is one of the most insidious of the many crimes we confront, sadly it is also one of the least understood and least recognized by the public. And as a father of six children, I want to change that. I know they are looping behind me, or to the side, some of the footage of the mission from October of last year when we went down to Cartagena and two other cities in Colombia; and if I have time, I will address and give you a little bit of context for that as Mr. Ballard may also.

Today in addition to offering my support for the International Megan's Law, H.R. 515, sponsored by the chair and passed by the House, I would also like to paint with a slightly a broader brush in giving texture to more comprehensive issues pertaining to human trafficking. And to that end, let me begin with a few generalized statistics regarding the trafficking of persons. There are currently an estimated 20 million to 30 million modern-day slaves worldwide, people taken or lured into servitude and held against their will. And to put that number in perspective, that is twice as many or more modern-day slaves than there were during the entire transatlantic slave trade from the 16th to 19th centuries, 300 years, which was by most scholarly accounts, 10 million to 13 million people. And I want to be very clear that I am not saying that in any way to diminish the blight that that is on our world history, but only to underscore the severity and pervasiveness of what is going on today.

Human trafficking has become the second most lucrative criminal enterprise internationally, trailing only drug trafficking and ahead now of even arms dealing and counterfeiting. It generates an estimated $150 billion or more annually but is very, very difficult to quantify because of how little is reported. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime estimates that 18 percent of the victims are forced into hard labor. Others are conscripted into military servitude, recruited for terrorism, forced into acting as suicide bombers, part of illegal adoptions, or even killed to harvest their organs on the black market. But the overwhelming majority, approximately 80 percent, are forced into sex slavery or sex exploitation. Sex exploitation includes forcing victims into prostitution and compelling victims to commit sex acts for the purpose of creating pornography.

Let me focus a few more statistics particularly on sexual slavery. Trafficking women and children for sexual exploitation is the fastest growing criminal enterprise in the world at this time, this despite the fact that international law and the laws of 134 countries criminalize sex trafficking. About 2 million children are exploited every year in the global commercial sex trade. That number is about 5 million if you are just talking about trafficking in general. Women and girls make up 98 percent of victims of trafficking for

sexual exploitation. Anecdotal estimates from survivors are that only 1 in 10 victims caught up in the life ever make it out alive, so that is 90 percent of the victims that will never make it out of the life alive.

According to the U.S. State Department, 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders every year, of which 80 percent are female and half are children. Briefly a quote from a young international sex trafficking victim:

> "They forced me to sleep with as many as 50 customers a day. I had to give the pimp all of my money. If I did not earn a set amount, they punished me by removing my clothes and beating me with a stick until I fainted, electrocuting me, or cutting me."

When I first heard experiences such as these, I thought that they were not humanly possible to endure. I am dreadfully sorry to report that I was wrong, having heard now from so many more victims that have corroborated the fact that these children can be raped dozens, if not scores of times, each and every day.

In February 2014, in my own home State of Utah, based on a tip from our immigrant community and a brave man who wore a wire to help us gather evidence, my office arrested Victor Emmanuel Rax, a central American individual, based on evidence of trafficking children, raping numerous young boys, and forcing them to sell his drugs, not only into high schools and junior high schools in our area, but even elementary schools in the Salt Lake County area. Upon arrest we consulted with our Federal law enforcement partners who indicated that they knew Rax, had tried to make a case against him for many years but that witnesses became too intimidated or disappeared in the past. They also indicated Rax had been deported seven times to central America where he had spent time in prison for crimes related to drugs and child sexual abuse and was a member of a notorious international gang. Rax had just come back into the U.S. after each deportation. We were not willing to let him escape again. When we, with the cooperation with our Federal counterparts, made the decision to prosecute Mr. Rax in the U.S. justice system and keep him here rather than deport, we had over 60 victims and witnesses come forward to testify by the time we filed information and charging documents. With such overwhelming evidence, Rax took his own life during the pendency of the trial.

With an International Megan's Law and attendant MOUs and bilateral agreements, Guatemala or El Salvador could have notified the U.S. to warn us of the monster within our midst. Also these countries have the expertise, software, forensic technology, investigative techniques, and prosecutorial experience that we have in the U.S. and that we have readily shared through organizations like Operation Underground Railroad, there may never have been a Victor Rax coming to Utah as they could have handled his case in his country of origin. The Rax case opened my eyes to the violations being perpetrated upon some of our most vulnerable. We have significantly increased in our State the number of investigations and prosecutions of trafficking cases during my administration. Just within the past 2 weeks, I participated with my strike force

team on an undercover sting and raid of a massage parlor we believed to be a front for sex trafficking. It was a site that I had personally surveilled over a period of a year with my men.

In Utah we have worked closely with legislators to enhance penalties for trafficking and to treat victims as victims rather than perpetrators. During the Rax case, I heard of an organization based in Utah called Operation Underground Railroad, which was just starting up. When I spoke to the founder, Tim Ballard, I told him I was extremely impressed by three things: One, the emphasis that OUR, the acronym, puts into providing resources, counseling, training, and stability to victims that they liberate from trafficking, and the involvement of groups and people like Elizabeth Smart in their organization.

Two, I was impressed by the focus on training of local law enforcement partners in the various countries where they do operations to give or enhance the skills, techniques, and tools that they need to replicate the operations again and again; and some of the most gratifying moments have been hearing from our law enforcement partners after we have done missions in their countries, telling us that they have had success on their own using the techniques they learned from OUR.

Number three, I told Mr. Ballard the emphasis on letting local partners take credit for their wins and building up credibility with their own people and government were quite impressive. And over the past year, dealing with them, having participated as a partner and member of OUR, I would now add two more quick points. The talent and dedication of Mr. Ballard's team, former successful CIA, HSI, Navy SEAL, Special Forces, and law enforcement personnel, and lastly the effectiveness of the stings they set up.

As you alluded to, Mr. Chair, how do I know how effective the stings are, because I have seen them up close and personally, as you might be watching them on the sides here. And if it comes back to looping, I will perhaps editorialize a bit.

In October 2014, I joined an undercover sting operation in Cartagena, Colombia, organized by Operation Underground Railroad. There were two other simultaneous jumps in Armenia and Metagene, other cities in Colombia, and because of the success that this organization had, and here you are actually seeing on the side the table at which the transaction occurred where we were making the offer to buy and have a sex party. I believe at this very moment our law enforcement partners, CTI, or the Columbian equivalent of the FBI are swooping in to make arrests. I think the timing of some of the clips is not sequential, but this occurred on a group of islands off the coast of Cartagena. We isolated the operation to minimize the danger to anyone else and to maximize the opportunity to cut off escape by the traffickers and to make sure that we could assure the safety of those young girls and boys that we were liberating.

So we had set up on an island there the site for the party. The traffickers believed they were going to come and bring all of these young children to have a sex party with an affluent American businessman. Again, I was playing the role of the translator and bodyguard, the mean and menacing player, which I thought was a bit unfair. You see our law enforcement partners, including Coast

Guard, local police, and CTI, very well coordinated. After months of work in excruciatingly detailed cooperation and coordination, we isolated the young ladies and the couple of young boys that were with them in one of those huts and transacted at the table, upon the successful transaction, the large amount of cash in exchange for the sex party. You will see law enforcement here now coming to take us down as we were posing as the sex participants and local law enforcement.

When they finished processing the traffickers, they allowed us to leave to head back to the airport. It was very touching to be able to say good-bye to those young girls knowing that many of them would be heading back home to families who had likely prayed for their safe return for a number of years. In other cases the families had no idea that they were actually being trafficked. They had been duped into thinking they were participating in a modeling agency. And so this is the type of work that Operation Underground Railroad does, very precise with buy-in from the highest levels of our sister nations. It is something that they welcome with the credit all going to their local law enforcement. And I will let Mr. Ballard finish out explaining more about that as I have a few more things to address before I summarize.

You see there, we saw up close the horror and helplessness in the eyes of your girls, ages 10 to 16, after the drugs that the traffickers had given them that very morning to take the edge off of what they were about to experience. And during those very moments now where it is being frozen around that table, they offered up these young girls as if they were desserts to be had for a minimal price. And the fear and, again, helplessness in their eyes was something I will never forget. Contrasted with the sense of liberation just a few minutes later and the hope that they had that they were going to potentially get home and be back safely with their parents.

All I can say is thank goodness that we were the ones there that day instead of real sex tourist predators. Not only did we liberate over 120 innocent girls and boys that day, cumulatively with the three missions that were done simultaneously and reunite them with families and get them much needed resources to start the long road to recovery, but again we trained local law enforcement with investigative techniques and software, and they have called us numerous times to report on their replication of other stings where they have taken down other traffickers and saved even more children.

People ask why the Utah attorney general went to Colombia. My reply, number one, because such a high percentage of those travelling abroad for sex parties are American. Some statistics suggest 80 percent or more of sex tourists may be American. I am embarrassed by that fact, that Americans provide such demand, and I feel a responsibility to remedy the scourge that my fellow countrymen have helped to create.

Secondly, helping to stop human trafficking no matter where it exists is vitally important, and to be clear, no State funds were used. I was not going down in my official capacity as the attorney general of Utah. In fact, nobody knew except for our closest law enforcement partners.

Three, and I think this is critical to this discussion, creating a firewall in countries like Colombia and the many other countries that OUR and other organizations like them have established to prevent future Victor Raxs from entering the shores of the United States and my State of Utah. Through the conference of Western Attorneys General, I and other State AGs have conducted bilateral training with AGs in Mexico and El Salvador to train and coordinate law enforcement resources; and I have met with the Ambassadors of Japan, Peru, the Philippines, and many others, including the Philippine Ambassador just again today to discuss further coordination and training. No leader with whom I have spoken from these countries is opposed to this even greater coordination as envisioned by the International Megan's Law. H.R. 515 also wisely provides for adding to the minimum standards for the principal diplomatic tool that the U.S. employs in this area, the Trafficking in Persons Report by our State Department, with its various tiers and incentives for our sister nations to achieve Tier 1 status.

So in summary, let me say thanks. International Megan's Law just makes sense. Codifying a requirement to alert law enforcement authorities in destination countries will allow our law enforcement partners worldwide to be more vigilant when known American child sex offenders are entering their countries, sometimes for legitimate travel, but too often for repeat offenses of child crimes, sex parties, and sex tours. And it will also provide law enforcement at the Federal, State, and local levels here in the United States, a much better chance to prevent domestic crimes when convicted child sexual abusers from other countries enter U.S. territory.

Fighting human trafficking is not a Republican issue or a Democrat issue. It is a humanitarian issue. It transcends any political differences or ideological divides. Its devastating reach grasps all walks of life and needs a united front for us to find success and give hope to victims and survivors worldwide.

I would urge the Senate and anyone listening to this hearing to support passage of this law and others aimed at curbing and eventually ending child sex trafficking. Thank you.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you so very much, Mr. Attorney General. And thank you for bringing up the International Megan's Law. It has passed the House three times. We believe it will get its hearing and will be acted upon by the U.S. Senate.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Reyes follows:]

CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY

UTAH ATTORNEY GENERAL SEAN D. REYES

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to address what I consider to be one of the greatest evils plaguing our world today; specifically, Child Sexual Slavery or the Trafficking of Children for Sex Exploitation.

As the Attorney General of the great state of Utah, I am the highest ranking prosecutor in our state. In this capacity, I am familiar with all manner of crimes.

I oversee approximately 80 certified peace officers who serve as investigators for the state, either full-time or from partner agencies that are affiliates of our Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force or Secure Strikeforce, both multi-agency teams under the AG's office focused on combating crimes such as child sexual abuse, exploitation and child pornography and disrupting the trafficking of women and children for various reasons including sex and sex exploitation.

While I believe trafficking of persons is one of the most insidious of the many crimes we confront, it is also one of the least understood and least recognized by the public.

In addition to offering my support today for the International Megan's Law Bill (HR 515) sponsored by Chairman Smith and passed by the House, I would also like to paint with a slightly broader brush in giving texture to more comprehensive issues pertaining to human trafficking.

To that end, let me begin with a few generalized statistics re the trafficking of persons.

Overview of Worldwide Statistics:

- There are currently an estimated 20-30 million modern day slaves worldwide. People taken or lured into servitude and held against their will. International Labour Organization, *ILO global estimate of forced labour: results and methodology* (2012) p. 13.

- To put that number in perspective, that is twice as many modern day slaves than there were during the trans-Atlantic slave trade from the 16th to 19th centuries all combined—which was 10-13 million people by most scholarly accounts.

- Human Trafficking has become the 2nd Most Lucrative Criminal Enterprise Internationally (only trailing drug trafficking and ahead of even arms dealing and counterfeiting).

- It Generates an estimated 150 billion dollars or more annually but it is very difficult to quantify because of how little is reported.

- The United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime—estimates 18% of victims are forced into hard labor; other are conscripted into military servitude, recruited for terrorism, forced into acting as suicide bombers, part of illegal adoptions, or killed to harvest their organs on the black market.

- But the overwhelming majority, approximately 80% are forced into sex slavery or sex exploitation,
- Sex exploitation includes forcing victims into prostitution and compelling victims to commit sex acts for the purpose of creating pornography.

And now let me focus a few more statistics on sexual slavery

- Trafficking women and children for sexual exploitation is the fastest growing criminal enterprise in the world.[1] This, despite the fact international law and the laws of 134 countries criminalize sex trafficking.
- About 2 million children are exploited every year in the global commercial sex trade.[3]
  [3]UNICEF, *Children Out of Sight, Out of Mind, Out of Reach; Abused and Neglected, Millions of Children Have Become Virtually Invisible* (Dec. 2005).
- Women and girls make up 98% of victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation.[5]
  [5]International Labour Organization, *Minimum Estimate of Forced Labour in the World* (April 2005) p. 6.
- Anectdotal estimates from survivors are that only 1 in 10 victims caught up in "the life" of sexual trafficking are able to escape alive. That would mean 90% never make it out alive.
- According to the U.S. State Department, 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders every year, of which 80% are female and half are children.
- ***A quote from a young, international Sex Trafficking Victim:***
- ***They forced me to sleep with as many as 50 customers a day. I had to give [the pimp] all my money. If I did not [earn a set amount] they punished me by removing my clothes and beating me with a stick until I fainted, electrocuting me, cutting me.***
- When I first heard experiences such as these, I thought they were not humanly possible to endure. I am dreadfully sorry to report I was wrong. Having heard from many more victims, they have corroborated the fact that these children can be raped dozens, if not scores of times every day.

Utah RAX Case:

In February of 2014, based on a tip from our immigrant community and a brave man who wore a wire to help us gather evidence, my office arrested Victor Emmanuel Rax, a Central American individual, based on evidence of trafficking children, raping numerous young boys and forcing them to sell his drugs into not just high schools but junior high and elementary schools in Salt Lake County.

Upon arrest, we consulted with our federal law enforcement partners, who indicated that they knew of Rax, had tried to make a case against him for years but that witnesses became too intimidated or disappeared in the past.

They also indicated Rax had been deported 7 times back to Central America, where he had spent time in prison for crimes related to drugs and child sexual abuse and was a member of an international gang. Rax had just come back into the US after each deportation. We were not willing to let him escape again.

When we, with the cooperation of our federal counterparts, made the decision to prosecute Rax in the US Justice system and keep him here rather than deport, we had over 60 victims and witnesses come forward to testify by the time we filed information and charging documents. With such overwhelming evidence, Rax took his own life during the pendency of the trial.

With an International Megan's Law and attendant MOUs and bilateral agreements, Guatemala or El Salvador could have notified the U.S. to warn us of the monster within our midst.

Also, if these countries had the expertise, software, forensic technology, investigative techniques, prosecutorial experience that we have in the U.S., there may never have been a Victor Rax coming to Utah as they could have handled his case in his country of origin.

Utah Trafficking Cases:

The RAX case opened my eyes to the violations being perpetrated upon some of our most vulnerable. We have significantly increased the number of investigations and prosecutions of trafficking cases in Utah during my administration.

Just within the past two weeks, I participated with my strike force team on an undercover sting and raid of a massage parlor we believe to be a front for sex trafficking. It was a site I had personally surveiled over a period of a year.

In Utah, we have worked closely with legislators to enhance penalties for trafficking and to treat victims as victims rather than perpetrators.

During the RAX case, I heard of an organization based in Utah called Operation Underground Railroad, which was just starting-up. When I spoke to the founder, Tim Ballard, I told him I was impressed by 3 things: (1) the emphasis OUR puts into providing resources, counseling, training, stability to victims they liberate from trafficking and the involvement of Elizabeth Smartin their organization; (2) the focus on training local law enforcement partners in various countries to give or enhance the skills, techniques and tools they need to replicate the operations again and again; (3) the emphasis on letting local partners take credit for the wins and build credibility with their own people and government.

Over the past year, having participated as a partner and member of OUR, I would now add 2 more points: (4) the talent, dedication of Mr. Ballard's team (former successful CIA, HSI, Seals, Special Forces and law enforcement personnel) and (5) the effectiveness of the stings they set-up.

How do I know how effective they are? I've seen them up close and personally.

OUR Experience:

In October of 2014, I joined an undercover sting in Cartagena, Colombia organized by Operation Underground Railroad, in which I and others posed as sex tourists to disrupt trafficking rings in 3 Colombian cities.

Specifically, I was enlisted to play the role of a grim and menacing bodyguard (a bit unfairly I might add) and a dual role as translator for the main American buyer. I saw up close the horror and helplessness in the eyes of young girls ages 10-16 after the drugs the traffickers had given them had worn off and they were paraded in front of us like a pet to buy or a dessert to sample.

They offered up these innocents as nothing more than fungible objects to do whatever, however and with however many we wanted. We transacted a large amount of cash, captured on hidden cameras the disgusting things they said we could do to these children and then acted our part when arrested along with the traffickers.

All I can say is thank goodness we were the ones there instead of real sex tourist predators. Leaving the island where the takedown occurred, someone in the Colombian government let the girls know we were the good guys. So, when we were leaving on boats while the child victims were being interviewed by humanitarian and government child welfare organizations, they shouted thanks in English and Spanish. Thank you Americans, we love you Americans!

Not only did we liberate over 120 innocent girls and boys that day, reunite them with families, get them much needed resources to start the long road to recovery, but we trained law enforcement with investigative techniques and software. They have called us numerous times since to report on their successful interdiction of further trafficking rings.

Hundreds of more children have been liberated due in large part to the skills and techniques OUR provided.

People ask why the Utah AG went to Colombia. My reply: (1) Because such a high percentage of those traveling abroad for sex parties are Americans (some statistics suggest 80% or more of sex tourists may be American). I am embarrassed Americans provide such demand and feel a responsibility to remedy the scourge my countrymen have created; (2) helping stop human trafficking no matter where it exists is vital (no state funds or resources used); (3) creating a firewall in countries like Colombia and many others may well prevent future Victor Raxes from ever entering the shores of the US and my State of Utah.

<u>International Training</u>:

- Through the Conference of Western Attorneys General—I and other state AGs have conducted Bilateral training with AGs in Mexico and El Salvador to train and coordinate law enforcement resources and I have met with Ambassadors of Japan, Peru, the Philippines and other nations to discuss further coordination and training.
- No leader with whom I have spoken is opposed to this even greater coordination as envisioned by International Megan's Law.
- HR 515 also wisely provides for adding to the minimum standards for the principal diplomatic tool the US employs in this area: the Trafficking in Persons report by our State Department with its various Tiers and incentive for our sister nations to achieve Tier 1 status.

<u>International Megan's Law</u>:

- In summary, International Megan's Law makes sense. Codifying a requirement to alert law enforcement authorities in destination countries will allow our law enforcement partners worldwide to be more vigilant when known American child sex offenders are entering their

countries, sometimes for legitimate travel, but too often for repeat offenses of child crimes, sex parties and tours.

- It will also provide law enforcement at the federal/state/local level in the United States a much better chance to prevent domestic crimes when convicted child sexual abusers from other countries enter US territory.

- Fighting human trafficking is not a Republican or Democrat issue, it is a humanitarian issue. It transcends any political differences. It's devastating reach grasps all walks of life, and needs a united front for us to find success and give hope to victims and survivors worldwide.

- I urge the Senate and anyone listening to this hearing to support passage of this law and others aimed at curbing and eventually ending child sex trafficking.

MISC Talking Points:

- Michael Lewis Clark was the first American convicted under the child-sex tourism provision of the Protect Act (circa 2004). He guilty in a Seattle federal district court to two counts of engaging in sex with a minor. **Clark was arrested in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, after authorities there learned he was paying young boys as little as $2 for sex. Clark may have molested as many as 50 children during several years of traveling back and forth to Cambodia, according to the investigation conducted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), an arm of the Department of Homeland Security. Four other Americans have also been charged under the act.**

- Education is critical: Making people aware.

  The video that plays during my testimony can be viewed here:

  https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B2Vb3nn8IEzHbW0teVdlMGk1UVE/view?pli=1

Mr. SMITH. Megan Kanka—before I go to Mr. Ballard—the 7-year-old girl who was brutally slain in Hamilton Township, New Jersey, my hometown, no one knew that, that pedophile lived across the street. He invited her into the house, raped her, and then brutally killed her. And that led to the enactment of Megan's Law in all 50 states and the District of Columbia and throughout the territories. It is a transformational effort. And the international part, as you know, it is all about noticing countries of destination of convicted pedophiles. There was a GAO report that found something like 4,500 convicted pedophiles in 1 year alone according to the Government Accountability Office, got passports, and they are good for 10 years, and then they go about travelling.

And they travel to places like Colombia, like Thailand, Brazil, all over the world; and they abuse children in secrecy. This would empower that government to deny a visa or to watch them very closely so they don't abuse their kids. So thank you for bringing that up as a preventative means of mitigating this horrific crime. Mr. Ballard.

Mr. REYES. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

STATEMENT OF MR. TIM BALLARD, FOUNDER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, OPERATION UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Mr. BALLARD. Good afternoon, Mr. Chair, and esteemed members of the subcommittee. Thank you very much for this opportunity.

My name is Tim Ballard. I am the founder and CEO of Operation Underground Railroad. I served for 12 years as a special agent for the Department of Homeland Security, where I served on the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and the Sex Tourism Jump Team. I worked as an undercover operative infiltrating organizations at home and abroad who were in the business of abusing children, sexually trafficking them.

In 2006 with the passage of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act, Congress opened the doors for U.S. agents to better investigate these cases, especially internationally, and I was one of the first agents assigned to a team that would go out and use our undercover skills to infiltrate these organizations, looking for American travelers who were engaging in sex with children. I was proud to represent the United States in dealing with this horrific issue. However, I often felt helpless by the fact that the vast majority of the child victims that we would find fell outside the purview of the United States or for that matter any developed nation with the tools that could save them. Unless I could tie a U.S. traveler to the case, I would not be able to rescue the children, even the ones that we were able to identify as being victims. It is an issue of the sovereignty. It is outside of the jurisdiction, and I understood that. However, that doesn't mean that we couldn't be doing more.

As an agent, I once had the opportunity to work on a specific case in Colombia. I did my due diligence, and as a team we located children who were being trafficked. And again, we were told that if it was not going to end in a U.S. courtroom, that there were no resources available and there was little we could do except send a reference, and sometimes that is just not enough. And that was discouraging, and I grew frustrated being told no many times, though I understood, clearly understood the reasons why. Because of this

I decided to leave and create Operation Underground Railroad, which we did last year.

We since went back to Colombia as a private organization, and as we have talked about and seen on the screens, we were able to pull off one of the largest rescue operations that we know about by setting up sting operations that consisted of ruse child sex parties. We were able to help the Colombians rescue more than 120 victims in 1 day. And to see these children, as young as 11 years old, to look into their eyes as they are tearful, scared to death, and knowing that they were lured out of this by various means.

This group in Colombia had actually hired a beauty queen from Cartagena who could lend credibility to their ruse and bring these children, and they told us as young as 9 years old, they started recruiting them to be models when, in fact, they were being sold and raped for money.

What is most interesting I think about this case in Colombia is that Homeland Security agents ended up arresting a American citizen named Dennis DeJesus. DeJesus caught wind of our fake sex party in Colombia and was heading down from Florida when U.S. agents arrested him. In the end, we got our American. Evidence concluded that DeJesus had produced child pornography and had traveled previously to Colombia in order to engage in sex with minors. DeJesus pled guilty to child sex crimes in a Federal court in Florida just a few weeks ago. This case proved that when engaging the problems of international child sex crimes, there is a good chance that a nexus to the United States will eventually be made.

However, I never would have be able to initiate this investigation as a U.S. agent due to the fact that the U.S. nexus did not appear until the end of the investigation. I also learned that once my team initiated this investigation, along with Columbian authorities, the U.S. Embassy and the Homeland Security Investigations, Bogota office, was more than happy to support the case. However, without our private efforts, the resources or the mandate to pull it off did not exist with United States assets. This is a matter of frustration to many of my former colleagues in the U.S. Government, these U.S. agents. They want to do more. They need resources to do more, more resources to do more.

The current approach by the U.S. Government to international child sex crimes could use some adjusting. More mechanisms need to be put into place so that the U.S. can better engage this problem. Oftentimes it feels like our policies and practices, though not our people or our Government agents, take a position that a foreign problem is simply not a U.S. problem. However, as the DeJesus case proves, when it comes to child sex crimes, this problem is international. And the fact that we are talking about child victims should cause us on a moral level to find ways to remove barriers that prevent international engagement. I have worked with many foreign governments, and I have never seen one that does not desire more U.S. involvement when it comes to these specific crimes against the most vulnerable souls on earth.

Speaking of International Megan's Law, H.R. 515, here is another opportunity, a wonderful opportunity, to attack this problem from a different angle. It will help bridge a serious gap. As a government agent, it was always frustrating to know that minus a

crystal ball, it would always be a serious challenge to predict when a child sex traveler would cross our borders to engage in illicit sex with children. As quoted in the bill itself, legitimate studies have concluded that there are close to 2 million children in the world currently in the commercial sex trade; and the bill also points out that a significant amount of these travelers are from the United States. And I for one can testify, I know these stats are true because I have been working in this black market for more than 10 years.

In a sad commentary on our society, the reason our cover story has worked so well and has been so easily bought by perpetrators is due to the fact that we are Americans. These guys, these perpetrators are used to catering to Americans. They are used to selling children to Americans. This is an American problem no matter where on earth the child victim happens to be.

In this country we proudly work under Megan's Law as a means to encourage States to protect children by identifying and monitoring the whereabouts of child sex offenders. As a society we have accepted the fact that convicted sex offenders pose a great risk to children, and so we make their presence known. Of course, the question why would we not offer the same mechanism to our friends overseas? And I understand it has passed three times in the House. It is time to pass it in the Senate, and I hope that your colleagues in the Senate are listening, that they might hurry along.

We might picture a man who has been convicted of raping children in a foreign country. We might imagine that this man is coming for a visit to our towns, to our parks, and our neighborhoods where our children play. Would we not want to know this man's past? Of course, we would. And I assure you that our friends in other countries want this information as well, especially the would-be child victims of the crimes.

Advancing this bill is an opportunity to connect law enforcement agencies around the world by arming them with actionable intelligence that they can use to prevent child sex crimes from occurring. This bill talks about the Angel Watch Center. The Angel Watch Center will be a significant first step in bridging the gap between governments and nongovernment organizations like ours that have real experience in rescuing and rehabilitating victims of trafficking.

One of the great benefits of being an NGO is that it allows greater freedom for anti-child crimes experts to move about the world, plugging quickly into any government jurisdiction and rapidly bringing the tools to fight child crimes into the hands of government officials who need them. We are readily afforded access to information regarding child sex rings that is useful to combat these rings. One of the challenges for us of course is, establishing and maintaining direct relationships with government officials who need and want our services. Through the Angel Watch Center, this problem will be helped. This center will serve as a venue where a public-private partnership can more easily leverage all the intelligence, ideas, tools, and strategies to best protect children at home and abroad.

Speaking for my organization, we have physically rescued hundreds of victims in the last year alone. Advancing H.R. 515 and cre-

ating the Angel Watch Center, I believe, could double or triple that number for us, and that is just for us. Add to that the many other NGOs and other government agencies, foreign and domestic, that will participate in the Angel Watch Center, and we will be saving more children than ever before.

Let's not wait any longer to put this bill into law. The children are desperately waiting for us. I know this because I have seen them. Thank you very much for this opportunity.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. Ballard, thank you so very much and again for that sacrifice of leaving your employment to take on this private sector initiative that has saved, as you pointed out, hundreds of victims in the last year alone. That is extraordinary. Thank you for that leadership.

[The prepared statement of Mr. Ballard follows:]

PRESENTING TO: the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations

THEIR ROLE: Oversee combatting human trafficking and authorizing sting operations overseas.

MEGAN'S LAW: (https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/515) The law would set up a notification system with destination countries about suspected child-sex trafficking in an effort to combat human trafficking

Good afternoon Chairman Smith and esteemed members of Congress.

My name is Timothy Ballard. I am the founder and CEO of the non-profit organization, Operation Underground Railroad (O.U.R.).

I served 12 years as a U.S. Special Agent for the Department of Homeland Security. As a member of the Internet Crimes against Children Task Force and the Homeland Security Investigations Child Sex Tourism Jump Team, I helped infiltrate and dismantle dozens of trafficking organizations that kidnapped children and/or abused them or forced them into the commercial sex trade. In 2006, with the passage of the Adam Walsh Child Protect Act, Congress opened the doors for U.S. agents to better investigate cases dealing with U.S. travelers who would enter foreign countries in order to sexually abuse children. I was one of the first agents assigned to engage these international investigations as an undercover operative posing as a child sex tourist or as a travel agent who specialized in child sex tours.

I was proud to represent the United States in dealing with this horrific issue. However, I often felt helpless by the fact that the vast majority of child sex victims fell outside the purview of developed nations, which meant that they were lost and unlikely to ever be rescued. As a U.S. agent, I would not be authorized to rescue children if their cases lacked a U.S. nexus or couldn't be tried in a U.S. court. Unless I could tie a U.S. traveler to an investigation, and though I could easily identify foreign children being sold in the commercial sex trade abroad, I was generally not allowed to engage or not provided the resources to engage.

As an agent, I once had the opportunity to work on a specific case in Colombia. I did my due diligence and knew where the children were, but was told that I could not engage because it wasn't going to end in a U.S. Courtroom. Time after time- constantly being told, "No", the frustration slowly grew.

I wanted to attack this problem from a different angle, so I left the U.S. government and created Operation Underground Railroad last year.

We since went back to Colombia as a private organization and pulled off one of the largest child trafficking rescues ever. By setting up a sting operation that consisted of the ruse of "child sex parties," we were able to help the Colombians rescue more than 120 victims in one day.

What's most interesting about this specific Colombia case is that Homeland Security agents ended up arresting American Citizen, Dennis DeJesus. DeJesus caught wind of our fake sex party in Colombia and was heading down from Florida when the U.S. agents arrested him. (http://www.sun-sentinel.com/local/broward/fl-sex-tourism-arrest-20141015-story.html). In the end, we got our American. Evidence concluded that DeJesus had produced child pornography and had traveled previously to Colombia in order to engage in sex with minors. DeJesus pled guilty to child sex crimes just a few weeks ago. This case proved that when engaging the problems of international child sex crimes, there is a good chance that a nexus to the United States will eventually be made. However, I never would have been able to initiate this investigation as a U.S. agent due to the fact that that U.S. nexus did not appear until the end of the investigation. I also learned that once my team initiated this investigation, along with Colombian authorities, the U.S. embassy and the Homeland Security Investigations Bogota Office, was more than happy to support the case. However, without our private efforts, the resources or mandate to pull it off did not exist with any United States asset. This is a matter of frustration to many United States agents. They want to do more. They need more resources to do more.

The current approach by the United States government to international child sex crimes could use some adjusting. More mechanisms need to be out into place so that the United States can better engage this problem. Oftentimes it feels like our policies and practices—though not our people or government agents—take a position that a foreign problem is simply not a U.S. problem. However, as the DeJesus case proves, when it comes to child sex crimes, this problem is international. And the fact that we are talking about child victims should cause us on a moral level to find ways to remove barriers that prevent international engagement. I have worked with many foreign governments, and I have never seen one that does not desire more U.S. involvement when it comes to these specific crimes against the most vulnerable souls on earth.

By advancing this bill, it is another opportunity to attack this problem from a different angle. It will help bridge the gap. As a government agent, it was always frustrating to know that, minus a crystal ball, it would always be a serious challenge to predict when a child sex traveler would cross our borders to engage in illicit sex with children. As quoted in H.R. 515, legitimate studies have concluded that there are close to 2 million children in the world currently in the commercial sex trade. This bill also points out that a significant percentage of child sex tourists are from the United States. I know these stats are true, as I have worked for over a decade inside these black markets. In a sad commentary on our society, the reason our cover story has worked so well and has been easily bought by perpetrators is due to the fact that we are Americans. They are used to catering to Americans. They are used to selling children to Americans. This is an American problem, no matter where on the earth the child victim happens to be.

In this country we proudly work under Megan's Law, as a means to encourage states to protect children by identifying and monitoring the whereabouts of child sex offenders. As a society we have accepted the fact that convicted child sex offenders pose a greater risk to children than others in society. And so we make their presence known. Why would we not offer this same mechanism to our friends overseas? We might picture a man who has

been convicted of raping children in a foreign country. We might imagine that this man is coming for a visit to our towns, parks, and neighborhoods where our children play. Would we not want to know about this man's past? Of course we would. I assure you our friends in other countries want this information as well, especially the would-be child victims of the crimes.

Advancing this bill is an opportunity to connect law enforcement agencies around the world by arming them with actionable intelligence they can use to prevent child sex crimes from occurring. The Angel Watch Center will also be a significant first step in bridging the gap between governments and NGOs like ours that have real experience in rescuing and rehabilitating victims of trafficking. One of the great benefits of being an NGO, is that it allows greater freedom for anti-child crimes experts to move about the world, plugging quickly into any government jurisdiction, and rapidly bringing the tools to fight child crimes into the hands of government officials who need them. We are readily afforded access to information regarding child sex rings that is useful to combat them. One of the challenges for us, of course, is establishing and maintaining direct relationships with government officials who need and want our services. Through the Angel Watch Center, this problem will be helped. The Center will serve as a venue where a public-private partnership can more easily leverage all the intelligence, ideas, tools, and strategies to best protect children at home and abroad.

Speaking for my organization, we have physically rescued hundreds of victims in the last year alone. Advancing this bill and creating the Angel Watch Center, I believe could double or triple that number for us. And that's just us. Add to that the many other NGOs and government agencies, foreign and domestic, that will participate in the Angel Watch Center, and we will be saving more children than ever before. Let's not wait any longer to put this bill into law. The children are desperately waiting for us. I know. I have seen them.

Thank you for allowing me to testify before you today. There is no greater cause on earth today that deserves our united attention. With that, I am happy to answer any questions you might have for me.

Mr. SMITH. Well now I will turn to Karla Jacinto, and I thank you for being here. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF MS. KARLA JACINTO ROMERO, SURVIVOR OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND ADVOCATE, COMMISSION UNITED VS. TRAFFICKING

[The following statement and answers were delivered through an interpreter.]

Ms. JACINTO. Mr. Chairman, and members of the subcommittee, thank you for taking the time to listen to my story. My name is Karla Jacinto and today I have a voice, but for more than 4 years of my life from the age of 12, as a little girl whose mother had thrown her out on the streets, open to anyone wanting to take advantage of my vulnerabilities, I fell prey to a professional pimp who after 3 months of wooing and me treating me as a princess, propped me up on a corner and forced me to work the streets for his own gain. For years and years I was coerced, intimidated, threatened, beaten, robbed of my children and emotionally and sexually violated time and time again.

During those years, I was forced to serve every type of fetish imaginable to more than 40,000 clients. Of those, many were foreigners visiting my city looking to have sexual interactions with minors like me.

Please try to put yourself in my shoes, broken, abandoned, violated, hurt, denigrated, and enslaved at a time when I should have been playing with dolls and looking forward to a fun day at school.

Today I am thankful to be able to stand before you as a reintegrated woman. At the age of 16, a man that had become a regular client was able to see beyond the short-term pleasure into the eyes of a broken girl. He helped me escape and I entered from the Fundacion Camino a Casa shelter. There I received the help, care, time, attention and love that I needed to put the broken pieces of my soul back together.

I also met Rosi Orozco, who has helped me grow into the activist I am today. I am 22, and for the last 5 years, my life has been dedicated to raising my voice to anyone willing to hear that we exist, that there are thousands of little girls in my country being used for the pleasure of those who only live for their own desires, economic gain, and exertion of power.

It is up to us, both governments and nongovernment organizations to work together to prevent this crime, punish those who commit them, to look and rescue for those who are already caught in the web, and to provide the care necessary for their healing and reintegration into a healthy society. No one person can do it himself or herself. We are all responsible. We are all affected, and we can all do something.

Today, your people have chosen you to have a position of influence that can truly make a difference. And I hope that my story will help you make some choices that will put a stop to this horrible crime. Thank you.

Mr. SMITH. Karla, thank you so much for testifying and for the bravery to come forward and tell your story and to admonish all of to us do more to end this cruelty, and to help those who have been victimized. So your story will help.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Jacinto follows:]

Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations

A Pathway to Freedom: Rescue and Refuge for Sex Trafficking Victims

One-hundredth and fourteenth Congress

Testimony of Karla Jacinto
Survivor of Human Trafficking and Advocate for Commission United Vs Human Trafficking (Comisión Unidos vs Trata, A.C.)
Mexico

This testimony is being delivered in English by Rita Hernandez

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for taking the time from your important schedules to listen to my story. My name is Karla, and today I have a voice, but for more than 4 years of my life, from the age of 12, as a little girl whose mother had thrown her out on the streets, open to anyone wanting to take advantage of my vulnerabilities, I fell prey to a professional pimp, who after three months of wooing me and treating me as a princess, propped me up on a corner and forced me to work the streets for his own gain. For years and years I was coerced, intimidated, threatened, beaten, robbed of my children, and emotionally and sexually violated time and time again. During those years I was forced to serve every type of fetish imaginable to more than 40,000 clients. Of those, many were foreigners visiting my city looking to have sexual interactions with minors like me.

Please try to put yourself in my shoes: broken, abandoned, violated, hurt, denigrated, and enslaved at a time when I should have been playing with dolls and

Ligo Periférico Insurgentes Sur 4903-1 • Parques del Pedregal • Tlalpan • México, D. F.
www.unidoshacemosladiferencia.com • @unidosvstrata • info@unidoshacemosladiferencia.com
Denuncia Tel. 01800 55 33 000

looking forward to a fun day at school. Today I am thankful to be able to stand before you a reintegrated woman. At the age of 16, a man that became a regular client, was able to see beyond the short-term pleasure, into the eyes of a broken girl. He helped me escape, and I entered the *Fundación Camino a Casa* shelter, there I received the help, care, time, attention and love that I needed to put the broken pieces of my soul back together. I am 22, and for the last 5 years, my life has been dedicated to raising my voice to anyone willing to hear that we exist, that there are thousands of little girls and boys in my country being used for the pleasure of those who only live for their own desires, economic gain and exertion of power. It is up to us, both governments and non government organizations to work together to prevent this crime, punish those who commit them, to look and rescue for those who are already caught in the web, and to provide the care necessary for their healing and reintegration to a healthy society. Not one person can do it by himself or herself. We are all responsible, we are all affected, and we can all do something. Today, your people have chosen you to have a position of influence that can truly make a difference, and I hope that my story will help you make some choices that will put a stop to this horrible crime. Thank you.

Mr. SMITH. I would note for the record that C–SPAN is here which means that Americans will have the opportunity to hear all of your testimonies. And C–SPAN, you know, is independent. It does not cover every hearing. And I am very grateful that they are here so that your words will be heard by millions of Americans and people around the world. So thank you.

I would like to now introduce our final witness, Rosi Orozco, again a former deputy, author of landmark anti-human trafficking legislation in Mexico, and now the president of the Commission United vs. Trafficking.

STATEMENT OF THE HONORABLE ROSI OROZCO, PRESIDENT, COMMISSION UNITED VS. TRAFFICKING (FORMER MEXICAN CONGRESSWOMAN)

Ms. OROZCO. Mr. Chairman, and members of the subcommittee, thank you for this opportunity. Today I am here out of a profound sense of obligation to focus on the problem of sex trafficking, especially the reality of sexual tourism and child pornography. As you have heard, Karla was a victim of all these crimes at the age of 12. To establish some context, I will—I should explain a little bit of who I am. Thanks to the training I received from your Justice Department here in Washington, DC, 2005, all my life now has been dedicated to fight human trafficking. In all of its forms. But especially that of sexual exploitation of women and, of course, minors.

First, as a Congresswoman from 2009 to 2012 where I was the driving force to establish the general law to prevent, punish, and eradicate the offenses of trafficking in persons and to protect and assist the victims of these crimes. Since the law took effect in 2012, and with the leadership of our President Enrique Pena Nieto, and we have reported more than 200 convictions. Mexico now is the leader in the prosecution of these crimes in all Latin America. More recently, as the president of the NGO Commission United vs. Trafficking, we work in partnership with 97 other NGOs, and we have made sure that we communicate a clear message to every social, political, business, art, and international platform.

In Mexico, human beings are not for sale. And we will fight against anyone that acts against that fact. Today I am here representing every victim of slavery in my country. Sadly, Mexico is a country of origin, transient, and destination of human trafficking of women, men, and children, that are being exploited both in Mexico and the United States. It worries so much to all of our NGOs that there has been some intention in Congress in Mexico trying to knock down the law that protects the human rights of victims and punishes criminals. They will try again in September so we are working as NGOs to protect the good parts of our law, and reform the articles that could be better with some Congresspeople that are very committed against human trafficking.

According to the World Tourism Organization, and the International Labor Organization about 3 million people traveling the world look for travel-related opportunities to participate in sexual acts with children. Sexual tourism affects more than 2 million children that are obligated to prostitute themselves or work in the pornography industry. Sexual tourism is the principal motor behind

child sexual exploitation. This is a phenomenon that in recent years has expanded exponentially throughout the world, especially in Asia, and Latin America with Mexico being one of the principal countries affected, especially in the northern border towns and beach cities.

Last year your own Homeland Security Department has situated Mexico as the number one distributor of child pornography in the world. This is largely due to the high demand. Studies demonstrate that most perpetrators are coming from the United States, England, Holland, and Germany. In a study done by the American Bar Association we know that 47 bands of human traffickers were identified in Mexico, of which the most renowned originate in the State of Tlaxcala, and are very well-known for importing their victims to the United States.

I urge you today to make sure that our country will continue working together to put a stop to the atrocity of human trafficking and in all its forms, all forms of human trafficking by refining our laws and committing to communicate and cooperate with each other. We can stop the criminalization of victims, work to push hard to strengthen the law against providers and consumers, ease the path for prosecution of cases, and provide the care that victims and their families needs to rebuild their lives.

We believe that we have been working very well with the Ambassador Anthony Wayne, even his wife is one of the wives of many of the Ambassadors that works with Fundacion Camino a Casa. Karlita herself has met her. The Polaris Project is doing a great job also in a partnership with Mexico now, and you have a great, great Attorney General, Loretta Lynch, who is called in Mexico, the nightmare of the pimps. And we also have a very good Attorney General who will be the nightmare of the pimps soon. She is new in office. And also, we have great police who are committed against these crimes.

In truth, my passion is to work directly with the beautiful girls that have suffered and been rescued from these horrific crimes. I have personally worked with more than 200 victims, shared their stories, and witnessed their struggle as they look to reveal their lives and heal from the worst pain that can be inflicted on a human being, the loss of their freedom and dignity. More than anything, they need all of us to be willing to fight for them and they deserve to be heard. Just think about this. Most of these girls were suffering from poverty, violence, lack of education, when they become targets of criminals that make them also to be their slaves. So when the heroes like the people of Operation Underground Railroad rescue them, as a society, we owe them very much. They didn't have what they deserve in our country. They deserve the food, the house, the security, and education. And then we see them as slaves. Thank you to people like the people that work in OUR, thank you for being heroes in other countries.

We need to work a complete process of reintegration from start to finish until they become successful people that we can all admire, like Karla, who is with me now today. She is a survivor of human trafficking. She was a sex slave between the ages of 12 to 16. Seven years ago, Karla was saved by a client who saw her beauty instead of his lust. And now she is a worldwide activist who

has spoke twice in front of Pope Francis, has taken and shared her story with the Duchess of Cornwall, has been with the ex-President Felipe Calderon, and with Queen Noor of Jordan at the Trust Women Conference in London, among many other important people.

We believe that people like Karla, if we don't help them until they are successful, they could kill themselves, or become criminals. When she arrived to the shelter she was full of hate. Now she is full of love. We must work to break the vicious circle of lack of cooperation between authorities and NGOs. Our mistrust of the process that result of people failing to denounce the crime and failure to prosecution. Instead, we must create a virtuous cycle where authorities and NGOs like OUR work together, then provide a special and dedicated care to these teams until they become successful stories. We need to work together with survivors until they become people of admired by society. Only then will more people denounce the crime of human trafficking; only then will more criminals be prosecuted; only then will more victims be freed; and only then less and less people will look for slaves to satisfy their basic instincts.

Please, do not name the clients johns if they were like the clients that Karlita had. They are criminals. They are not johns like they were a nobody. We should treat them like criminals. Thank you so much for hearing us.

Mr. SMITH. Ms. Orozco, thank you very much for your leadership, both in the Congress as well as now as head of an NGO. Thank you so much. You inspire us and, obviously, you have saved many, many lives.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Orozco follows:]

Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations

A Pathway to Freedom: Rescue and Refuge for Sex Trafficking Victims

One-hundredth and fourteenth congress

Testimony of Rosi Orozco
President of Commission United Vs Human Trafficking (Comisión Unidos Vs Trata)
Mexico

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity of presenting testimony before this committee. Today I am here out of a profound sense of obligation to focus on the problem of sex trafficking, specially the reality of sexual tourism and child pornography. To establish some context I should explain a little of who I am. For the last 10 years my life has been dedicated to fighting human trafficking in all of its forms, but especially that of sexual exploitation of women and minors. First as a congresswoman with the LXI Legislature of the Mexican House of Representatives, where I worked to establish the general law to Prevent, Punish and Eradicate the Offenses on Trafficking in Persons and to Protect and Assist the Victims of these Crimes. It was enacted into law in June of 2012, since then, ten states have ratified the law and harmonized their state laws with the provisions of the general law. We are working to make sure that the remaining 22 states carry out the reforms as soon as possible. Since the law took effect, Mexico has reported about 260 sentences, which positions us as leaders in prosecutions of human traffickers worldwide. More recently, as President of The

Commission United vs. Human Trafficking, working in partnership with 97 other NGO's, I have made sure that we communicate a clear message to every social, political, business, arts and international platform: "In Mexico, human beings are not for sale, and we will fight against anyone that acts against this fact."

In truth, my passion is to work directly with the beautiful girls that have suffered and been rescued from this horrific crime. I have personally worked with more than 200 victims, shared their stories, and witnessed their struggles as they look to rebuild their lives and heal from the worst pain that can be inflicted on a human being: the loss of their freedom and dignity. More than anything, they need all of us to be willing to fight for them, and they deserve to be heard.

Today, I am here representing them. Sadly, Mexico is an important producer, transit way and destiny of human trafficking of women, men and children that are being exploited both in Mexico and the United States. According to the World Tourism Organization[1] and the International Labor Organization[2] about 3 million people travelling the world look for travel related opportunities to participate in sexual acts with children. Sexual tourism affects more than two million children that are obligated to prostitute themselves or work in the pornography industry. Sexual tourism is the principal motor behind Child Sexual exploitation. This is a phenomenon that in recent years has extended exponentially through out the world, especially in Asia and Latin America; Mexico being one of the principal countries being affected especially in its northern border towns and beach cities. Last year, your own Homeland Security Department[3] has situated Mexico as the number one dis-

Ligo Periférico Insurgentes Sur 4903-1 • Parques del Pedregal • Tlalpan • México, D. F.
www.unidoshacemosladiferencia.com • @unidosvstrata • info@unidoshacemosladiferencia.com
Denuncia Trata 01800 55 33 000

tributor of Child Pornography in the world. This is largely due to the high demand. Statistics demonstrate that most perpetrators are coming from the United States, England, Holland, and Germany[4] In a study done by the American Bar association, 47 bands of human traffickers were identified in Mexico[5], of which the most renown originate in the state of Tlaxcala, these are very well known for importing their victims to the United States. I urge today all of us to make sure that our countries work together to put a stop to the atrocity of human trafficking in all its forms. By refining our laws, and committing to communicate and cooperate with each other, we can stop the criminalization of victims, work to push hard to strengthen the law against providers and consumers, ease the path for the prosecution of cases, and provide the care that victims and their families need to rebuild their lives. Strategic alliances between our governments and non-government organizations are important steps towards combating this enormous problem. Together we can make a difference.

Please welcome my friend Karla Jacinto. She is a survivor of human trafficking and she is here to share a little bit of her story.

Resources

1. http://dtxtq4w60xqpw.cloudfront.net/sites/all/files/pdf/29_report_world_tourism_network_on_child_protection.pdf

2. http://www.ilo.org/ipec/Informationresources/WCMS_IPEC_PUB_9150/lang--en/index.htm

3. As stated in the Symposium on Combating Exploitation and Child Pornography – 3013 - http://www.elmanana.com/aseguradepartamentodeseguridaddeeuquemexicoeselprincipaldestinodepederastas-2312203.html

4. http://www.ecpat.net/sites/default/files/Global_Monitoring_Report-MEXICO_0.pdf

5. (ABA) https://apps.americanbar.org/rol/publications/mexico_2009_htat_en.pdf

Mr. SMITH. I would like to ask a few questions. We do have three votes. If it is okay with you, and I know some of you may have to leave, we will take a short recess and come back and ask some additional questions. But just to begin the questioning, and I yield to my two distinguished colleagues, Attorney General Reyes, you talked about the 120 kids and let me just say, undercover work whether it be in Utah, your State or my State, New Jersey, or any State in the Union is always dangerous work. But I would be suspect of undercover work in a foreign country where the reliability of the law enforcement assets may be questionable. Mr. Ballard may want to speak to this as well—how do you vet the law enforcement people that you make a part of your team given the distance, or even in Utah. There might be somebody who is complicit in the trafficking who would let the bad guys know you are coming, or put your very life at risk.

The 120 kids, what has become of them? The whole idea of recidivism is always a deep concern for all of us. All of you might want to speak to that. How do you keep them out of harm's way? I have found, because I have been in shelters all over the world, that there needs to be a significant length of time, months doesn't cut it. It needs to be years to really break that cycle and turn, as Ms. Orozco talked about, the hate into love and self-acceptance. Because the victims, unfortunately, blame themselves far too often, and they are victims. So if you could speak to those two issues at the outset and Ms. Bass, I could yield to you now, and then to get the questions in because I know Ms. Bass can't return, and then Ms. Jackson Lee.

Ms. BASS. Well, I want to acknowledge my good colleague who is also from your State, Mia Love, Congresswoman Mia Love, who just came. So a couple of things. I also was interested in some of the same questions that the Congressman asked. I was very interested in what happened to the girls, and also what happened to the men. Because, as I watched the tape as it was going, the first thing that came to my mind is that do they get released, and then do they go back after the girls? You know what I mean? Do they capture the girls?

And then I would like to ask Ms. Jacinto, if you could please explain when you were rescued, what was it that allowed you to not go back? And then I just want to make a brief statement for the record.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Chair, are you ready——

Mr. SMITH. If I could, just because of time, we are joined by Mia Love, who is obviously from your State, and a very dedicated Member of the Congress, and caring about these issues, and then going to my Democrat colleague, Ms. Jackson Lee.

Mrs. LOVE. I first of all just wanted to say thank you for the invite and letting me know that our attorney general and Mr. Ballard from Operation Underground Railroad is here. The work that they do is so incredibly important. It is something that is very important in the State of Utah, but also for our Nation and around the world.

This is not based on fiscal issues. This is not based on party issues. This is what we have to do, and that is you are protecting life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. This is a moral issue,

and I wanted to say thank you so much for making this such an important part of what you do.

I have three children, two girls, one boy, and it makes me feel better as a parent knowing that there are some good people out there doing this work and making sure that the predators know that we will not rest. We will be diligent and we are watching them and we are putting them out of business. So from the bottom of my heart as a parent, as an American who cares about the children all around this world, thank you for the work that you do, and thank you for this committee for taking this issue so seriously.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Chair, can we say we are proud of our entire Federal delegation especially here today. Thank you, Congresswoman Love. She is not telling you everything. She has actually been helpful in a number of ways, including an operation or several operations that have occurred in Haiti, given her Haitian heritage and we appreciate her support and all of your support, so I just wanted to acknowledge her and everything she has done to support Operation Underground Railroad.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you. Ms. Jackson Lee.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Well, first of all, let me thank you for the courtesies extended by both the chairman and the ranking member. Thank you so very much. Quickly to the witnesses, let me thank you for your testimony. I just briefly will indicate and ask a question, and then hopefully it will go on the record. I am the ranking member on the Crime Subcommittee. We want to make sure that we have some collaboration with the Foreign Affairs Committee for filling in the holes. So my question would be, there seems to be a gap as to dealing with those who are not connected to the United States. We deal with sex trafficking as the buyer, the victim, and maybe in the State. And so my question would be general, and of course to our Congressperson, how do we deal internationally? How do you make sure if there is an international issue in New Jersey that you either connect Federally or that your laws allow you to reach to be able to ensure that their dastardly works are not impacting New Jerseyites, people from Utah, and fill in that gap that we don't miss those who are trying to do devastating things to children.

Lastly, I always mention Boko Haram, way, way, far away, but, you know the dastardly things they have done by kidnapping girls and we believe it has an international effect. So thank you so very much for your service.

Mr. REYES. Thank you. Are you going to recess now, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. SMITH. No, we do have a little extra time so if you will begin answering the questions——

Mr. REYES. Let me quickly try to address one or some of the questions that were posed perhaps at a surface level and then I will allow Mr. Ballard who is our operations director——

Ms. BASS. Excuse me, and also Ms. Jacinto, because I know I won't be able to come back, so I just really wanted to hear from her.

Mr. REYES. You know what, I am happy to defer too. Let's let Ms. Jacinto address those things. And then we can come back.

Ms. BASS. My question was whether she could recall one thing that really allowed her to be able to stay away, and not get pulled back.

Ms. JACINTO. My daughter. Because she was taken away from me when she was born. That is when I really started fighting. When she was born, when she was 1 month old she was taken away from me, and for 1 full year.

Ms. BASS. Foster care?

Ms. JACINTO. No, no, no, the pimp, or the crime organization took her from me, extortion, so they could continue.

When they took her from me, that is what gave me the strength to pull through, and one of the regular clients recognized my situation and helped me escape and recuperate my daughter. When they gave her back to me she had burns in her cheeks. Every day while I was in the shelter, I wanted to learn how to be a good mother to my daughter so that our children, because most of the girls that are there, we have children, do not fall prey to this crime.

I would never ever, ever want to go back to that place because in that situation you become an object, a sexual object. You have no other identity. And that is what makes me stand here today and raise my voice to say "enough."

Mr. SMITH. Thank you. We have three votes, like I said, so in about 15 minutes or so, we will resume the sitting of the subcommittee. Thank you very much, and we stand in recess.

[Recess.]

Mr. SMITH. The subcommittee will resume its sitting, and I do want to apologize again for the delay to our distinguished witnesses as well as to the audience. We are joined by Ann Wagner, a distinguished Member of the House of Representatives from Missouri, who wrote a major bill that has passed the House, is likely to be back in the House after being through the Senate, that criminalizes advertising. And I would like to yield to my good friend and colleague for any comments about her bill which I think will make a huge difference, and any questions that she might have of our panel.

Mrs. WAGNER. Well, I thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank you for a lifetime of leadership on this issue for all of those giving a voice to the most vulnerable and those who are oftentimes voiceless. I served 4 years as a United States Ambassador in Western Europe, and was very familiar with human trafficking vis-à-vis the international aspect of things. But I will tell you, it wasn't until I came home to my own country in 2009, decided to run for office myself, put my own name on the yard sign, dug into a few things, and realized how prevalent this scourge, this modern-day slavery is, and the prevalence here domestically in our own country.

This is, domestically, a $9.5 billion business. There are upwards, according to the Justice Department, of 300,000, mostly young girls, at risk for this. And we as a Congress, other than reauthorizing the fantastic work that Chairman Smith has done, really had not gotten up to date on some of the new technologies, and the new things going on over the last decade, so I brought this up. I am on the Financial Services Committee. I do a lot in defense, and veterans issues, but this, this, fighting this scourge of human trafficking and sex slavery is a passion of mine. And so we went for-

ward, introduced several pieces of legislation last Congress. I can tell you in January, along with Chairman Smith's bill and many others, we passed 12 pieces of legislation for human trafficking in January out of the House of Representatives. The Senate has taken a number of them up. They worked things out and four of those will be coming back to us next week which we were very excited about; things that will bolster law enforcement, and prosecutors, and give you, sir——

Mr. REYES. Tools that we need.

Mrs. WAGNER [continuing]. The tools that you need and that you have been asking for. You know, I can't tell you enough, truly, our attorney general of Utah, General Reyes, the kind of work that you have been doing to fight this on a day-in-and-day-out basis, but we are going to give you some of the tools, the resources, and help those victims in terms of safehouses, and education, and awareness.

My particular piece of legislation is called the SAVE Act, and it goes on, and in the last 12 years or so, obviously, the Internet has just blown up and skyrocketed. And there are these online predators and advertisers on outlets like backpage.com, and many others that make it—I hate to say it but it is the truth—make it as easy to order up a young 14-year-old girl to their hotel room as it is a pepperoni pizza. It is deplorable.

So this does not go after the Communications Decency Act. It is not going after any kind of freedom of speech issue. This goes into the criminal code. And in the criminal code, section 1591, for human trafficking there is a litany of words that constitute human trafficking. It is things like transporting, harboring, coercing, and on, and on, and on. And all we did was simply add advertising. And I don't care whether it is a billboard or a flier, or something you see in the back of a magazine or one of these online predators that are making, let me tell you, $4 million to $5 million a month off of selling our women and children, and young boys too.

So I recognize the work that many of you are doing from an international basis and I support that wholeheartedly. We have a number of great pieces of legislation like the International Megan's Law and other things that are so very important to our world society as we fight this scourge.

But I do want to always remind folks that this is hiding in plain sight in our own backyards, in our own cul-de-sacs, in our own faith communities, in every school district. And we have to not just do things legislatively. We have to lift education and awareness. I met with a group of superintendents last week when I was back in the district, and I said, you guys are fantastic. You do programs about bullying, about heroin, about boundaries, and maybe sexual assault, but have we ever discussed sex trafficking? How we ever discussed how these predators go online and what they are looking for. Maybe that nanny job isn't a real nanny job. Maybe that modeling job isn't a modeling job. Maybe whatever it may be, there are tools that we need to provide our youth and, frankly, our counselors and others.

So we are working with convention, and visitor's bureaus, with transportation outlets, with healthcare professionals, obviously,

with our prosecutors and our law enforcement, but I want to take it to the next level, which is educational awareness in our schools.

So I am just so thrilled that after 3 years, we are going to have a number of pieces of human trafficking legislation that have passed the Senate, are moving back to the House for final passage here and I do believe that the President will sign this legislation. It is much needed. So I applaud the work that all of you are doing. I am so grateful to Chairman Smith for always shining a bright light on this issue. And I stand with you both internationally and domestically. And I have to tell you, General Reyes, the work that you are doing, and your commitment to this cause is absolutely head and shoulders above anyone that I have seen, literally, in the States, so I thank you, sir.

Mr. REYES. Thank you so much. Thank you, Congresswoman. Thank you Congresswoman Wagner, and we so appreciate your fight to get us those tools that we need. It will be effective and we will use them. We won't let them go to waste combating these perpetrators and offenders. I know you are doing the State of Missouri proud and we feel that support from you. So let me just tell you brava. Thank you for your work.

And Chairman Smith, if you would like, let me say again, reciprocally, from our vantage point, we applaud everything that you all do. But there has been no greater warrior in Congress on behalf of fighting for the rights, fighting for these poor innocents than you, Chairman Smith, and we really take our hat off to you.

Mrs. WAGNER. Hear, hear.

Mr. REYES. Thank you for everything that you have done, not on human trafficking, on so many different humanitarian issues, and for the time that you have allowed us to have today to hopefully educate just a little bit more our peers, our countrymen and our fellow men worldwide and women about this issue.

You had a couple of questions. I am going to do my best to address——

Mr. SMITH. Before you go on, I do hope other attorneys general and their staffs get to see this on C–SPAN and perhaps by amplification by the media, because you set a standard, an example that needs to be followed. This is a winnable war. We all know that, and every effort that is made, every smart effort will lead to prevention of trafficking, protection for the victims, and prosecution of this nefarious trade.

So thank you for your leadership and I would join you in thanking Congresswoman Wagner because she, first, as you know an Ambassador and working on the executive branch side, but now as a lawmaker is making a huge difference. This is a winnable war. So thank you. And we need every State to do what you are doing. They don't all want to go undercover and rescue precious children in Colombia. But they can use their tools and their capacity to end this egregious practice. So thank you. And I did ask a few questions——

Mr. REYES. I will get to those questions. One thought occurred. Congresswoman, if you want some ideas about school programs, training on how to avoid being victims of child sexual trafficking or being victims of other sex crimes, please come talk to me afterwards. We have some fantastic ones in Utah and we would love to

share them with you. And also, again, notwithstanding the praise and the recognition that you gave, I don't want to accept a disproportionate amount of credit for what my colleagues, my other attorneys general throughout the United States are doing, have done before me, and will continue to do. There are many great leaders on the Republican side, the Democrat side throughout the great States of our Nation who have taken a lead on combating human trafficking. And so again, on behalf of all of them, our national attorneys general, they are the frontline in many instances in this fight, and I want to pay respect and credit, and give credit to all of them.

To your questions, though. You asked what happens to survivors. And let me break that down domestically and internationally. Domestically, from our office in the State of Utah, we work with our Division of Child and Family Services, we work with nonprofits like the Elizabeth Smart Foundation, because in spite of the fact the liberating element of these operations gets the lion's share of the media attention, and it is kind of the exciting parts, the stuff you see on the news, we all know who work in this area that the true heavy lifting comes after the fact when these victims become survivors and then need the resources educationally, training, jobs, counseling, treatment, physical and psychological support and it is going to take in some cases a lifetime to help them overcome the atrocities that they have just endured. And so organizations like the Elizabeth Smart Foundation, domestically, safehouses that we work with are part of the comprehensive approach that we have taken to address what happens to these survivors now that they have been liberated.

Internationally, each country is different. Each country has different resources. Each country has a different capacity to provide resources, but one of the things that I admire most about Operation Underground Railroad, is that they will refuse to work with a country, or they will even forestall operations until that country gives its absolute commitment to give every resource available that they do have, to helping the victims once they are liberated. And in the case of Colombia, we worked with a humanitarian organization called Renacer, the rebirth, along with the Colombian Federal and state resources. So their equivalent to child family services.

You know, we need to put so much—you mentioned, Congresswoman, safehouses. The reason why only 1 out of every 10 leave the life alive is that there is no safety valve for them. They want to leave. They want to get away and so often there is no place for them to escape and so these safety houses are another way that we can help encourage them to leave and give them the protection of the State and Federal Government resources.

The second question, really quickly, that I want to touch on, you asked, Mr. Chair, how do we vet our Government partners? And to be candid with you, during the entire operation that I was on in Colombia, I really was more worried about potential false friends in the government maybe turning us over, or turning us into a cartel than I was about the traffickers. You know, neutralized them pretty quickly and they weren't an extreme physical threat. I will say this: OUR vets through a combination of their own international contacts, recognizing that many of them used to be former

CIA operatives and members, and have established trusted relationships over decades along with our Federal Government agencies like HSI who help us vet and give us a measure of comfort with the actual agencies that we work with hand in hand to take down these criminals abroad.

So the reality has been testified to earlier, is that there are agencies that aren't as credible, and we do have to worry about them, and we are very careful. And there still is an element of risk. And no matter how much vetting and due diligence that you do, but that is a risk we are ready to accept when it comes to saving these little ones and bringing them back to their families. I will let others address the questions too.

Ms. JACINTO. Congresswoman Wagner, I would like to commend the work that you are doing on behalf of me and the girls that I now know are in the shelters. I know a very good friend of mine called Anita, she is in the book that Rosi provided for you, who was sold in advertisements in the newspaper. And it is exactly because of Anita's testimony in our Congress that Mexico has already adopted a law against this type of advertising. So thank you for working on that. I would also like to thank Tim and OUR and Attorney General Reyes for the work they do. In our shelter in Mexico City, we have a rescued victim that OUR rescued. Her name is Bibi. She lives with us, and I work directly with her helping her with her whole process. So we are happy to say that there are places where the girls that they rescue end up being well taken care of.

Mr. SMITH. Let me just ask what the role in, particularly in the healing process. I have actually been in shelters in Russia, Peru, Bolivia, Ethiopia, Romania, Ukraine, Italy, Bosnia just to name a few of the countries, and I have observed a marked difference in terms of the positive impact on women and young girls when there is a faith-based component of some kind. Some are run exclusively—in Bolivia and Peru they are run by nuns. And young girls in Peru—Greg and I were in the ones in Ethiopia, and Piero and I were in the ones in Peru and some of these other Central and South American countries. And I was really touched by how the healing seems to go so much further when there is a faith-based component.

I am wondering what you think about that. Pope Francis, among other distinguished clerics, has made this a high priority, this combating human trafficking and caring especially for the victims. I am wondering, you know, what your thoughts on that might be?

Ms. OROZCO. Well, of course, in Mexico we work with three shelters. The only ones that help victims of human trafficking, and the three of them have that component.

Mr. SMITH. Has what, faith-based?

Ms. OROZCO. Yes, faith based. And we believe that that is very important until they really are successful. I am so proud now of Karlita because, you know, they do a book of dreams, and we all, these 97 NGOs, we help them to succeed. We also work in jails with the pimps. That has been very powerful. If you can watch the CNN documentary that is called "Human Merchandise," you can watch one of the pimps who is asking forgiveness to one of the friends of Karlita. That also is in the book, Marcella. All of the girls

that you can see in the book are successful victims because all of them know now that they are special; that they were created to do an important mission now, and because of that, also these pimps, Karlita has been in jail with them, and it is very powerful to the restorative justice. And they have been able to ask forgiveness to the victims. That is powerful too.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you.

Mr. REYES. Well, let me say this, Mr. Chair, we certainly are welcoming to all organizations of whatever background that want to join the fight. But so many of our best partners in this effort are faith-based organizations and it does have a powerful impact in the healing process that I have seen. On a side note, I remember when I let my staff know that I was heading down. I have a chief civil deputy who is a two-star Army general, somebody that I greatly admire, a hero of mine. And he said to me—atypical of his usual deference to my position—he said, "Boy, I wouldn't send my own troops down where you are going. You can't go." And my response to him was, "General, I feel like God is on our side in this effort, and that He will protect us." And that I have counselled with so many of those survivors who have said that it was really God and faith that kept them alive throughout the process. And so, of course, in the healing process, I would expect that God and faith would play a critical role, and I am not ashamed to say that.

I think that that is an important component of it. Whatever someone's conception of what God or faith may be, I think it is critical.

Last thing, and this is, I guess, the beauty of having C–SPAN cover this, I get texts from people saying, oh, you need to cover this or that that you forgot to say. In terms of the girls that we worked with, many of them were able to get back to their families. And I think that is what people were curious about. Did they get home to their families? In some sad cases, it was their families that sold them in the first place, or the family environment is not a stable enough one where we feel comfortable putting them back in that environment. And so again, with our Government partners, and our nonprofit partners, both domestically and internationally, we take a very careful look at making sure we put these children, of course, with a deference to their families first, in a situation where they can win because the last thing we want to do is liberate them and set them up for failure without the resources that they deserve.

So it is true because people ask, sometimes their families, their direct immediate families were the ones that decided to profit from them, and so they may go to next of kin. However, I wouldn't be too judgemental. In many cases the families did not know that they were putting their children in harms way. In this very case they thought they were giving them a chance to make more money in 1 year in a modeling agency which is part of that culture, beauty pageants, than both parents could make an in a decade. And so then, you know, why wouldn't they want to help support their number of other siblings, and they innocently let their children go to be part of that.

There are English exchange programs. The women that we help liberate in my State, the victims we found out that they thought

they were signing up for a United States cultural program or an English language program, and the wily traffickers, the ones who are cagier, will often, with a gun to the heads of the victims, essentially figuratively or literally, have them Skype their families every month to say, things are going great here. We love it in America. Learning a lot. But in the meantime, they are put 10 to 20 in a little flat, again beaten, raped, drugged, abused, and forced to be prostitutes, and their humanity is taken away, their dignity is stripped away.

So we do everything we can on the back end to give them chances to reintegrate and be successes like our hero here today. She said she admired us, but she is a real heroine to all of us. So again, thank you for your time. Thank you for all of your efforts. We hope your Senate colleagues are listening carefully to the testimony today.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you for your strong appeal for the International Megan's Law. Coming from a person with your experience and knowing the direct impact it will have, it is very, very powerful.

Let me just—I have one final question. I yield to my friend Mrs. Wagner for any additional questions she might have. But one of the emerging phenomenons that we have seen, is that it is not just organized crime, but it is gangs that has embraced human trafficking in a very, very despicable way. We have had a number of busts in my own State of organized crime, of that too, but of the gangs. And these young girls that are being exploited are 14, 15, 16 years old and if you could speak to that as an emerging threat because this seems to be going from bad to worse. Gangs do bad things with drugs, they do bad things relative to violence of other kinds and they are now in the trafficking business of human persons.

Ms. OROZCO. Yeah, also we have that punishment to the people who are in organized crime, or gangs that will take these young people, like to sell drugs, or to be forced to do crimes, and it is happening in our country. We are fighting against that. And also, we are having agriculture people forced to labor, and we just had a new girl who also escaped from being forced labor in—it was like a dry cleaning.

Ms. JACINTO. Yeah, a dry cleaning.

Ms. OROZCO. Dry cleaning, and she was even with chains in her body 2 years. She is devastated. It is the worst case, and it is happening and that is why the laws have to be reformed and we congratulate you because we can see in your heart that you have a passion to protect dignity and freedom. Thank you. You have the same spirit of Abraham Lincoln, and we are very happy to be here with you.

Mr. SMITH. Well, thank you. And thank you for your leadership.

Mr. REYES. The dynamic you described, Mr. Chair, I believe is an accurate one, more and more. In fact, I think the prevalence of those who are traffickers is less from large, organized criminal structures and rather either smaller gangs or one-off cells. The vast majority of those traffickers that we encounter, especially when we are doing our operations, are really small. And ironically, and in fact in Colombia, the intelligence that we received on that par-

ticular cell that we busted came from high-level narcotraffickers. And, you know, perhaps there is honor amongst thieves. They said, you can handle this two ways: Either we will take care of these guys our way, and that might be a lot of collateral damage and carnage or the government can do something about it. And the government reached out to Operation Underground Railroad and said, Tim, please come in right now and help us devise a way to go after them without endangering other citizens. And so again, to my point, it seems to be less and less huge cartels, and much more just small organizations. Because historically, the downside has been very small. There hasn't been that much disincentive in terms of the laws that have been out there or enforcement. Things are changing with the laws that you are helping us pass domestically, Congresswoman Wagner. Things are changing, Chairman Smith, because of the International Megan's Law that will hopefully eventually be the law of the land. But I think that was an astute observation that you brought up.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you. I would like to yield to Congresswoman Wagner.

Mrs. WAGNER. And I would agree with you, General, that a lot of this is maybe not large cartel business, but it is big business. And at the end of the day, it is follow the money. I will tell you that here domestically any given pimp generally traffics about six to eight women. They make $150,000 to $200,000 a year off of each one of those victims. And it is absolutely, as I have said before, deplorable. What lifts me up, though, and gives me great hope are people like you, Karlita, and survivors, and people that are willing to come forward and tell their stories.

I have been to the safehomes and the shelters. I have worked with these young people. I have been on sting operations myself—probably not quite on the frontline as you were, General—but I have been there when we have saved two young women and caught two pimps at the same time.

Mr. REYES. Congratulations. That is wonderful.

Mrs. WAGNER. And you know, so we dig in big time. And at the end of the day there are things that we can do legislatively, obviously. But education an awareness are absolutely key, and I can't stress that enough. Across the board everywhere, whether it is our schools, whether it is in our hospitals, whether, as I said, it is in our convention and sports—St. Louis, my hometown, sadly, is in the top 20 for human trafficking, mainly because of its logistical location and its interstate access. So there are also things that I think that we can do. And we are putting some legislative teeth behind studies and bringing together research and information with who the most vulnerable are. Who are the ones that are most likely to be victimized, so that we can take care to watch out and over them and give folks the resources and the information about how to not fall prey to this kind of victimization in the first place.

So again, I applaud your efforts. It is a labor of love, and one that I feel very, very passionately about. I have got a young daughter. I have nieces. I care about their future, the future of all of our young children and grandchildren, and I will fight legislatively. I will fight for education and awareness on this issue until the last breath in my body.

And I thank you, General. I will absolutely get with you. Some of my staff is here and we are working, as I said, on some best practices and programs for some of the schools. And I think we have gotten their attention. So I applaud you and I thank you, and I thank you Mr. Chairman, for giving me the latitude and the time today to come before you.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you. As we conclude, I will just talk about situational awareness, one of the best practices that is of absolutely almost no cost except for the training, and that is to train airline flight attendants and as well as the pilots to recognize. A woman named Nancy Rivard has come up with—and others—has come up with Airline Ambassadors International, a wonderful program so that the flight attendants become situationally aware. They become eyes and ears during a flight. It ought to be done on trains and at bus stops as well. And then law enforcement is advised in a timely fashion, in the case of a plane as it lands, to be there, to ascertain whether or not there is a trafficking in progress. And there have been a number of tremendously encouraging stories where this has absolutely broken the cycle.

Coming out of Haiti, American Airlines was able to break a cycle of little children where a pedophile ring was broken. Flights coming out of Russia to Chicago where every couple of days there would be a number of Russian girls, young girls, teenagers, with one guy. There is something wrong with that picture. Turns out it was a trafficking ring and the flight attendants were situationally aware enough to make sure the pilot called ahead. So it is something we need to get in all of Latin America, all of Asia, all of Europe, Africa, so that thousands of airline flight attendants and the pilots and crew will be aware of what it looks like not to be law enforcers, not to put the potential victims at risk or themselves, but again, to phone ahead so that when that plane lands, they are rescued and the traffickers apprehended and prosecuted.

Mr. REYES. Be our eyes and ears. Or theirs. And the trucking association has been terrific partners as well in some of ships and all of those together. We need everyone.

Mr. SMITH. We do.

Ms. JACINTO. Mr. Chairman, would you mind repeating the person that wrote the program?

Mr. SMITH. Sure. Nancy Rivard and it is Airline Ambassadors International. And we actually at the Department of Homeland Security, have a best practices module, or training capacity called Blue Lightning, so that needs to be replicated everywhere, including our own airlines. Delta has undertaken this, but far too few of our own airlines, certainly in Mexico, and you know, all of the other airlines need to be looking at it as well. Anything you would like to say before we conclude?

Mr. REYES. No. Thank you, again. I would just concur with Congresswoman Wagner that education and awareness ultimately will be the biggest deterrent to fighting this. We can't just investigate and prosecute our way out of this problem. And when you are ready to come to Utah for an undercover sting, come on out. We will get you a flack jacket and we will put you to work, Congresswoman. Thank you. Congressman Chaffetz has been out with us several times.

Mr. SMITH. And he does send his best. He is at a top secret briefing right now, or he asked me to convey to you that he would be here to welcome you. Thank you so much.

Ms. OROZCO. We just want to give you our blue heart. This is the U.N. blue heart for human trafficking. Humans are not for sale. Thank you.

Mr. SMITH. Thank you. And thank you again for your bravery in coming forward and telling your story as well. The hearing is adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 5:02 p.m., the subcommittee was adjourned.]

APPENDIX

Material Submitted for the Record

SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING NOTICE
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6128

Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations
Christopher H. Smith (R-NJ), Chairman

May 14, 2015

TO: MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

You are respectfully requested to attend an OPEN hearing of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, to be held by the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations in Room 2172 of the Rayburn House Office Building (and available live on the Committee website at http://www.ForeignAffairs.house.gov):

DATE: Thursday, May 14, 2015

TIME: 2:30 p.m.

SUBJECT: A Pathway to Freedom: Rescue and Refuge for Sex Trafficking Victims

WITNESSES: The Honorable Sean Reyes
Attorney General
State of Utah

Mr. Tim Ballard
Founder and Chief Executive Officer
Operation Underground Railroad

Ms. Karla Jacinto Romero
Survivor of Human Trafficking and Advocate
Commission United vs. Trafficking

The Honorable Rosi Orozco
President
Commission United vs. Trafficking
(Former Mexican Congresswoman)

By Direction of the Chairman

The Committee on Foreign Affairs seeks to make its facilities accessible to persons with disabilities. If you are in need of special accommodations, please call 202/225-5021 at least four business days in advance of the event, whenever practicable. Questions with regard to special accommodations in general (including availability of Committee materials in alternative formats and assistive listening devices) may be directed to the Committee.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

MINUTES OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON *Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations* HEARING

Day *Thursday* **Date** *May 14, 2015* **Room** *2172 Rayburn HOB*

Starting Time *2:31 p.m.* **Ending Time** *5:02 p.m.*

Recesses [*1*] (*3:46* to *4:27*) (____ to ____) (____ to ____) (____ to ____) (____ to ____) (____ to ____)

Presiding Member(s)

Rep. Chris Smith

Check all of the following that apply:

Open Session [✓]
Executive (closed) Session [ ]
Televised [✓]
Electronically Recorded (taped) [✓]
Stenographic Record [✓]

TITLE OF HEARING:

A Pathway to Freedom: Rescue and Refuge for Sex Trafficking Victims

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. Tom Emmer, Rep. Curt Clawson, Rep. Karen Bass, Rep. Mark Meadows

NON-SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: *(Mark with an * if they are not members of full committee.)*

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee*, Rep. Ann Wagner*, Rep. Mia Love*

HEARING WITNESSES: Same as meeting notice attached? Yes [✓] **No** [ ]
(If "no", please list below and include title, agency, department, or organization.)

STATEMENTS FOR THE RECORD: *(List any statements submitted for the record.)*

TIME SCHEDULED TO RECONVENE _____
or
TIME ADJOURNED *5:02 p.m.*

Gregory B. Simpkins
Subcommittee Staff Director