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## 42 pimps, prostitutes in N.J. arrested in FBI child sex trafficking bust

Updated on October 19, 2017 at 4:25 PM

Posted on October 19, 2017 at 3:58 PM

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**NEWARK** -- Dozens of pimps and prostitutes were arrested in New Jersey as part of annual international sweep led by the FBI to crackdown on human trafficking, officials said.

In what authorities dubbed "Operation Cross Country XI," 42 people were arrested in the state on warrants and charges of sex trafficking, child exploitation and prostitution. It was the 11th year of the FBI-led international sweep.

While officials declined to give a breakdown of the towns in which the arrests occurred, they said six were made in North Jersey, three in Central Jersey and 33 in South Jersey.

Officials said they did not want to provide the towns to "avoid criminal activity moving to another town."

The arrests, which were made in hotels, truck stops and street corners from Oct. 12 through Oct. 15, resulted in charges against 120 traffickers in the U.S. A total of 84 juveniles were also rescued in the U.S. during the operation.

During last year's sweep, authorities in New Jersey rescued a 17-year-old.

Even though no juveniles were rescued in the state this year, Assistant Special Agent in Charge Bradley Cohen, of the FBI Newark Field Division, said, "we potentially touch the life of an adult to stop them from participating in criminal activity."

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Authorities in Canada, Cambodia, the Philippines, Thailand and the United Kingdom also made dozens of busts in similar operations.

There were 55 FBI field offices and 78 state and local task forces involved in the sweep, along with hundreds of law enforcement partners.

Among the 84 juveniles rescued in the U.S. were a 3-month-old and a 5-year-old in Denver, Colorado, according to the FBI. A 16-year old girl was also rescued by the FBI in El Paso, Texas.

The following agencies in New Jersey took part in "Operation Cross Country."

- Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office
- Atlantic County Sheriff's Office
- Atlantic City Police Department
- New Jersey Human Services Police Department
- Egg Harbor Township Police Department
- Galloway Township Police Department
- Cape May County Prosecutor's Office
- Fairfield Police Department
- Essex Fells Police Department
- Monmouth County Sheriff's Office
- Ocean Township Police Department
- Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office

- West Caldwell Police Department
- Caldwell Police Department
- New Jersey State Police
- Essex County Prosecutor's Office
- New York/New Jersey Port Authority Police Department
- Irvington Police Department
- Hudson County Prosecutor's Office

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