



Fact Sheet

OPERATION PREDATOR

In July 2003, the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) developed Operation Predator, an initiative to identify, investigate, and arrest those who prey on children. Operation Predator draws on ICE's unique investigative and enforcement authorities to safeguard children from foreign national sex offenders, human traffickers, international sex tourists, and child pornographers.

Coordinated nationally and internationally through ICE's headquarters, Operation Predator brings together an array of ICE disciplines and resources to target these abusers. As part of the effort:

- ICE established a single web portal to access all publicly available state Megan's Law databases.
- ICE has formed partnerships with several non-governmental organizations, including the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and World Vision's child sex tourism prevention project, to provide prevention and deterrence information to the public.
- ICE created a National Child Victim Identification System in partnership with NCMEC, the FBI, U.S. Postal Inspection Service, U.S. Secret Service, the Department of Justice, the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces, and other agencies.
- ICE agents stationed internationally are working with foreign governments and their foreign law enforcement counterparts to enhance coordination and cooperation on crimes that cross borders.
- ICE is working with INTERPOL to enhance foreign government intelligence on foreign national child predators.

RESULTS

ICE has arrested more than 6,500 child predators nationwide since Operation Predator began. These individuals have committed a wide range of acts of child exploitation.

Criminal Alien Child Predators

Operation Predator evolved out of ICE's mission to find and deport illegal aliens, particularly those with criminal records. The majority of the arrests under Operation Predator – roughly 85% – have involved foreign nationals in this country whose child sex crimes make them removable from the United States. By matching immigration databases with state Megan's law directories, ICE agents have identified and arrested more than 1,800 registered sex offenders. Some recent ICE arrests involving criminal aliens who committed child sex crimes include Julio Cesar Rabago-Magana, a Mexican man who raped a four-year-old child in the basement of Mercado Central in Minneapolis, Minn., and Mikhail Kleyman, a Ukrainian man living in Solon, Ohio who inappropriately touched a 13-year-old mentally

disabled child. To date, more than 3,100 of these foreign-born predators have been removed from the United States to their home nations.

International Child Sex Tourists

Working cooperatively with foreign governments through ICE's Attaché offices worldwide, ICE agents investigate Americans who travel abroad to engage in sex with minors and individuals who come to this country to engage in sex with children. Thus far, ICE agents have made 14 arrests under the child sex tourism provisions of the PROTECT Act. In one case, 85 year-old John Seljan was arrested in Los Angeles as he attempted to board a flight to the Philippines, where he intended to have sex with two Philippine girls ages 9 and 12. At the time of his arrest, Seljan had pornographic materials, sexual aids, and nearly 100 pounds of chocolates in his luggage, as well as currency. Seljan was sentenced in March 2005 to 20 years in prison.

Human Smuggling and Trafficking of Children

The criminal networks engaged in human smuggling and trafficking have become more violent and more profit-driven than ever before. At the same time, some of their victims are getting younger and younger. In one case, a predator tried to purchase nine-to-eleven year old girls from Mexico. ICE agents arrested the individual when he traveled to Arizona to have sex with the girls.

Internet Child Pornography

Drawing on ICE's cyber crime investigative expertise and international presence, ICE is tackling the crimes that cross the nation's virtual borders. In one major investigation, ICE agents have arrested 236 individuals for trading, buying and distributing child pornography online. Acting on ICE leads from the investigation, law enforcement officials in Australia, Denmark, Finland, Japan, the Netherlands, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom have arrested more than 1,000 individuals. Additionally, through the National Child Victim Identification Program, agents have authenticated more than 2,100 images of children in pornographic images. These authentications provide critical evidence to ensure successful prosecution of the traders and producers of child pornography, and assist in the identification of child pornography victims.

PROTECTING CHILDREN WORLDWIDE

Several U.S. laws safeguard youth from sexual predators, including the Mann Act, the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Act of 1994 and the PROTECT Act of 2003. For example, federal law bars U.S. residents from engaging in sexual or pornographic activities anywhere in the world with a child under 18. ICE is working with law enforcement agencies and advocacy groups around the globe to investigate crimes of this nature. Those convicted in the U.S. face significant penalties:

- Manufacture, distribution, or possession of child pornography: maximums of 30, 20 or 10 years in prison, respectively. Manufacture also carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years.
- Child sex tourist, child sex tour operator or participant in these crimes: maximum 30 years in prison
- Sex trafficking of children for prostitution: maximum life sentence

In addition, lawful immigrants and illegal aliens who are convicted of crimes in the United States are subject to removal proceedings, which may ultimately lead to their removal from the United States.

YOU CAN HELP: REPORT SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

Report suspicious activity to ICE by telephone or e-mail:
1-866-DHS-2ICE or Operation.Predator@dhs.gov

Report suspected child sexual exploitation to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children:
1-800-843-5678 or www.cybertipline.com