

Holy Spirit Breathed: FBI Rescues Multitudes of Child Sex Trafficking Victims

The Federal Bureau of Investigation announced this week its agents located 84 victims of underage sex trafficking and 37 missing children during a nationwide operation conducted in early August.

Of the 121 total minors rescued, the FBI said the average age is 15 years old. The youngest victim found during the initiative, "Operation Cross Country," is 11 years old. The federal agency also rescued 141 adult victims of human trafficking.

The national operation, which oversaw 391 localized initiatives across the country, took place in the first two weeks of August.

U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland issued a statement this week, voicing his gratitude for the men and women of the FBI and partnering agencies, like the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, who helped rescue these abused children and adults.

"The Justice Department is committed to doing everything in our power to combat the insidious crimes of human trafficking that devastate survivors and their families," he said, according to WTKR-TV. "I am grateful to the dedicated professionals of the FBI and our law enforcement partners across the country for their tireless work to rescue trafficking survivors, including exploited children, to investigate and prosecute the perpetrators of trafficking crimes, and to provide the services and support that survivors need and deserve."

In addition to the incredible number of rescues made, agents also apprehended 85 suspects of child sexual exploitation and human trafficking offenses.

FBI Section Chief Jose Perez said these kinds of operations are successful when agents are able to take “a concentrated period of time where we’re just focused on the problem of child sex trafficking.”

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