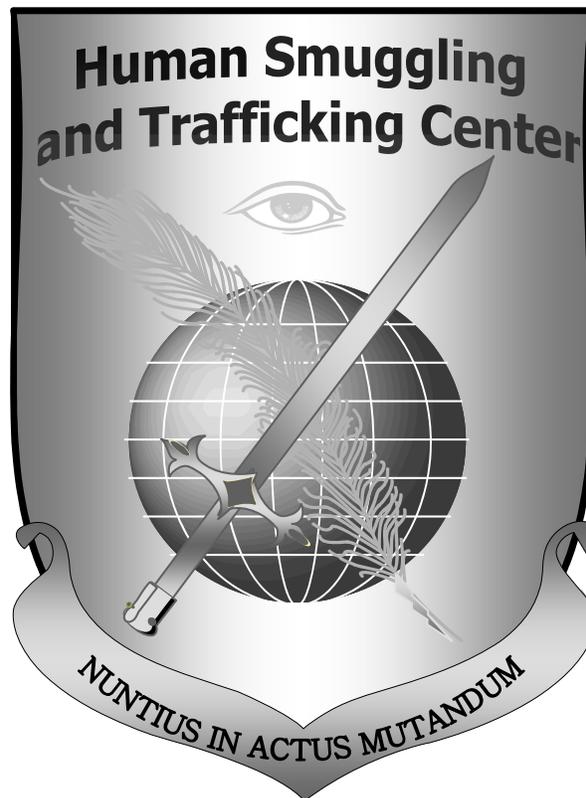


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Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center



HSTC Intelligence Note

**Tenancingo Bulletin #2:
The Flores Carreto Enterprise:
Incarcerated but Not Detained**

**November 15, 2010
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(CONTEXT STATEMENT: The information in this report was provided by the Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center (HSTC) in collaboration with the participating agencies of the HSTC. The HSTC is an interagency fusion center and information clearinghouse, composed of representatives from various governmental agencies, and focused on matters of human smuggling, human trafficking, and the facilitation of terrorist travel. The HSTC provides the U.S. Government with a mechanism to achieve greater integration and overall effectiveness in its efforts to eliminate these activities. The HSTC is unique among U.S. organizations and centers in that it concentrates on illicit worldwide travel and provides guidance to U.S. Government policymakers.)

Scope Note: *This is the second in a series of bulletins at the unclassified level based solely on open source reporting intended to inform federal, state, and local law enforcement about the Tlaxcala, Mexico-based sex trafficking network with ties to the U.S.*

(U) The Flores Carreto Enterprise: Incarcerated but Not Detained

(U) U.S. authorities tried and imprisoned Tlaxcala Mexico's most notorious U.S.-linked sex traffickers several years ago, yet prosecution rates, limited anti-trafficking legislation, and meager arrests at just a few capital-area brothels indicate that Tlaxcala-originating trafficking rings continue to thrive, in spite of the Flores Carreto brothers detention.

(U) Flores' Behind Bars: A Necessary but Insufficient Blow to Tlaxcalan Trafficking

(U) Gerardo and Josué Flores Carreto, brothers from Tenancingo, Tlaxcala, were detained in 2004 in New York and accused of forming a human trafficking network that forced people into prostitution in the Mexican Federal District, other Mexican states, and eventually in New York. Their mother pled guilty to participation in the trafficking network four years later, after being extradited to the U.S. Both sons were sentenced, in 2006, to 50 years of prison, and their mother to ten years of jail time in 2009.¹

(U) Mexican Legal Infrastructure Weak on Trafficking

(U) While there are a few recently enacted Mexican laws criminalizing human trafficking, facilitating its prosecution, and giving victims special access to visas in Mexico, there is limited publically available information on the prosecution of alleged traffickers.² The Mexican government has an Assistant Attorney General for the Prosecution of Special Organized Crimes which established, in January 2008, a Special Federal Prosecutor's Office for Violent Crimes against Women and Trafficking of Women and Children. The achievements of this office are unknown, as the government has failed to publish official reports on its provision of assistance to female victims or to make prosecution data relating to female trafficking victims available.³

(U) Mexican Authorities Make Limited Gains

(U) Mexican authorities have made greater strides at combating trafficking in Mexico state and parts of the capital than they have managed in Tlaxcala state. The Mexican Federal District informs that 80 men from Tlaxcala have been charged there for sex

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trafficking. In contrast, Tlaxacala Attorney General's office received some 57 complaints from 2006 to 2008 relating to sex and human trafficking and dismissed all of them for either being circumstantial evidence or being investigated by other jurisdictions. According to the findings of a 2009 academic study of Mexican trafficking, 21 active cases impacted 136 victims, of which 33 were minors. These trafficking victims have been exploited in Tlaxcala, Tijuana, Puebla, Chiapas, Tamaulipas, Morelos, as well as Houston, Miami, Atlanta, Alabama, South Carolina, and New York.⁴



(U) Spotty 2009 arrests since the Flores Carretos' sentencing indicate that Tenancingo, Tlaxcala-originating sex trafficking persists.

- (U) The Federal District Attorney General's Office rescued 11 women on 7 January 2010 from the Hotel Oviedo in the Federal District, including three minors, ranging in age from 12 to 17.
- (U) On 13 April 2009, in the Hotel Madrid and El Capricho Bar, Federal District authorities arrested 28 people on sex trafficking charges, the majority of them from Tlaxcala.⁵
- (U) The Mexico City attorney general held some 45 sex trafficking victims in protective custody after a 13 March 2009 raid on La Merced neighborhood, including Hotels Madrid and Universo and El Capricho Bar, in the red-light district of Cuauhtémoc. The majority of those held were from Tenancingo, Tlaxcala.⁶
- (U) That same month, DF authorities detained Alejo Guzmán Flores of Tenancingo, Tlaxcala, known to be a sex industry leader in the San Pablo zone of the capital and a member of the Flores Carreto family, according to a local NGO. According to victims' testimony, Guzmán Flores killed and burned the body of a girl who refused to prostitute herself.

(U) Mexican and Tlaxcalan citizens' accounts reported in the Mexican media and on online chat forums indicate that these limited capital city raids are only the tip of the iceberg of sex trafficking perpetrators originating in Tlaxcala.^{7,8,9,10} ***To achieve measurable and lasting gains against the sex trafficking industry, federal and Tlaxcalan state authorities must target Tlaxcalan recruitment and finances.***

Contact Information:

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Please direct any information, questions, or comments concerning this report or the information herein to the Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center at 202-312-9746 or HSTC@state.gov.

¹(U) *El Universal*, "El clan de la explotación," 8 January 2010,

<http://www.eluniversal.com.mx/ciudad/99695.html>, accessed 25 August 2010.

²(U) *El Universal*, "Aprueban diputados ley de extinción de dominio," 23 April 2009,

<http://www.eluniversal.com.mx/notas/593091.html>, accessed 19 October 2010.

³(U) Amnesty International, "Invisible Victims: Migrants on the Move in Mexico,

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/report/widespread-abuse-migrants-mexico-human-rights-crisis-2010-04-27>, accessed 26 August 2010.

⁴(U) National Institute of Women, Montiel Torres, Oscar, "Trata de personas: 'padrotes', iniciación y modus operandi," 23 July 2009, http://cedoc.inmujeres.gob.mx/documentos_download/101082.pdf, accessed 20 October 2010.

⁵(U) *El Universal*, "Lenones de Tlaxcala operaban hotel Oviedo," 8 January 2010,

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⁶(U) *El Universal*, "PGJ resguarda a 45 sexoservidoras," 14 March 2010,

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⁷(U) *La Jornada*, "Cobra fuerza el lenocinio en el sur de Tlaxcala, con anuencia de autoridades," 23 April 2006, <http://www.jornada.unam.mx/2006/04/24/index.php?section=estados&article=039n1est>,

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⁸(U) *Yahoo! Mexico Respuestas*, "Tenancingo, Tlaxcala...Por que no los Arrestan," 25 March 2007,

<http://mx.answers.yahoo.com/question/index?qid=20070324234905AARfzxx>, accessed 24 August 2010.

⁹(U) *El Universal*, "¿Cuál es la solución contra la explotación sexual?," 26 September 2010,

http://foros.eluniversal.com.mx/w_detalle.html?tdi=187&rtdi=10048, accessed 20 October 2010.

¹⁰(U) *Señorío Tlaxcalteca*, "El Estado, ¿como factor de combate a la clandestinidad en temas sexuales?" 28 September 2009, <http://e-consulta.com/blogs/senoriotlaxcalteca/?p=420>, accessed 20 October 2010.