

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE

Date: 10/05/2009

To: Criminal Investigative

Attn: Civil Rights Unit

From: Los Angeles

CR-1

Contact: SA [REDACTED]

Approved By: [REDACTED]

Drafted By: [REDACTED]

Case ID #: 50-LA-~~NEW~~ 254214-1

Title: CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY;
[REDACTED] SUBJECTS
CIVIL RIGHTS - HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SENSITIVE INVESTIGATIVE MATTER

Synopsis: Initial submission to open a Sensitive Investigative Matter.

Full Investigation Initiated: 10/05/2009

Details: Pursuant to the Domestic Investigations and Operations Guide (DIOG), Section 10.2.D, this human trafficking investigation is a Sensitive Investigative Matter pertaining to a religious organization. The reporting agent received information that the elite branch of the Church of Scientology known as the "Sea Organization" (Sea Org) houses and employs thousands of Scientology members, including children and adults, utilizing force, fraud and coercion.

Based on interviews of former Sea Org members (hereinafter Complainants), the Church of Scientology (COS) tricks young Scientologists into joining Sea Org, promising good salaries, regular work hours, vacation and family visits. However, once Sea Org members begin their service, they are housed and held at secure locations where they work 15 hour days in various positions for Scientology-based companies. Sea Org members are given no days off, and are permitted only limited and monitored contact with anyone outside of the camps where they live and work. All incoming and outgoing mail is opened, read and

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A SA [REDACTED]
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electronically scanned before it is distributed. All Sea Org members' passports are held in the security office.

Approximately 30-50% of Sea Org members are foreign. It is considered criminal to say anything negative regarding Sea Org and if a member expresses a desire to leave, they are put through a grueling and lengthy process that typically results in the member staying.

All Sea Org members are instructed how to lie to outsiders and authorities who might inquire of their living and working conditions. Sea Org members who try to escape or who are disobedient are sent to underground labor camps that resemble "concentration camps" where they live and work in slave-like conditions around the clock building furniture and other material goods.

Background on the Church of Scientology

As a result of Complainants' allegations, Agents conducted significant research on publicly available databases regarding the Church of Scientology and the Sea Organization. There are between 8 and 10 million members of the Church of Scientology (COS) around the world. Most are lay persons/parishoners who follow the teachings of Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard (LRH).

Scientology teaches that people are immortal spiritual beings who have forgotten their true nature. Scientology uses a method of counseling called "auditing" to spiritually rehabilitate church members. The auditing process involves using an electropsychometer, or "E-Meter," (akin to a polygraph machine) to assess an individual's spiritual state. The E-Meter supposedly shows a "charge" if an individual is not in a "clear" state. The goal is to be in a "clear" state, e.g., where the mind's negative images are gone and the person is rid of all fears, anxieties and irrational thoughts. Scientology is legally recognized as a tax-exempt religion in the United States and some other countries, and the Church of Scientology emphasizes this as proof that it is a bona fide religion.

Scientology utilizes an internal justice system referred to as the "Ethics System" to deal with unethical or inappropriate behavior. One significant piece of the justice system is the "Rehabilitation Project Force" (RPF). When a Sea Org member is accused of misconduct, such as lying, sexual misconduct, dereliction of duty, or failure to comply with COS policy, a "Committee of Evidence" examines the case. If the charge is substantiated, the individual may be sent to an RPF. Recently,

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former Sea Org members have spoken publicly regarding the RPFs and have compared them to concentration camps.

This investigation will focus on the two California Sea Org locations. One location is in Riverside County, California. That location is referred to as "International Base" (Int Base). The second location is in Hollywood, and consists of multiple buildings where Sea Org members are housed and work. All Sea Org locations are contained and secure. Sea Org members do not come and go freely. If a Sea Org member wants to leave Sea Org, they have two choices: either "blow" out, meaning to escape without permission, or "route out," which is a lengthy process involving isolation, auditing, security checks, and typically is unsuccessful for the staff member.

Only in more recent years, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] has Sea Org been transformed into an organization operated under threats and physical force. Since early 2000, COS has suffered embarrassing media setbacks which have caused [REDACTED] Sea Org with an iron fist. Sea Org members are being punished as a whole for the recent perceived failures of Scientology and its various businesses. Punishments include severe limitations of civil liberties, including physical abuse which has become mainstream within the Sea Org to punish and humiliate employees.

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In the past, Sea Org defectors have been unwilling to speak publicly regarding the abuses at the hands of [REDACTED] due to threats of financial retaliation and family detachment. However, [REDACTED] members of Sea Org who escaped in the last few years,

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] within Sea Org and worked closely with [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Based on media accounts, [REDACTED] not only were the recipients of severe physical abuse by [REDACTED] but they also were responsible for delivering blows to others. This is known as "ecclesiastical justice" that is imposed if Sea Org members are performing poorly. Since [REDACTED] have begun speaking publicly, other defectors are coming forward and exposing Sea Org's labor camps.

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Key Terminology

In order to evaluate the allegations asserted by Complainants in this case, the following relevant Scientology terminology is identified below:

Sea Org - The most elite arm of the COS where Scientologists dedicate their lives in a "billion year" contract to serve the COS. Sea Org staffers in the U.S. live and work in three primary locations: (1) "Flag Base" in Clearwater, Florida, (2) International Base, aka Gold Base, in Hemet, California, (3) Pacific Base, aka PAC Base, in Hollywood.

RPF - Short for "Rehabilitation Project Force." This is a program that gives Scientologists a "second chance" for "redemption rather than dismissal." It is where Sea Org members go who have committed serious offenses such as communicating with former Scientologists who have been declared "Suppressive Persons," for example. RPF camps are located in Los Angeles and Hemet, CA.

Suppressive Person (SP) - Any Scientologist who speaks ill of or undermines the COS or the activities of COS members. If a Scientologist is "declared" an SP, they are banned from having contact with any member of Scientology, even family members.

Religious Technology Center - RTC operates out of the Int Base. It owns the religious trademarks of Dianetics and Scientology. [REDACTED] of the Board of the RTC.

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Flag Base - Short for the Flag Service Organization in Clearwater, FL. It is the "spiritual headquarters" for the COS. It includes the Ft. Harrison Hotel and the Super Power Building across the street (which is unfinished and has sat vacant for 6 years).

Int Base aka Gold Base - This is a 500-acre property in Riverside County surrounded by razor-wire fencing with sharp inward pointing spikes to prevent escape. The gates are guarded at all times. Security guards patrol the grounds. Motion sensors and surveillance cameras are placed throughout the property. (Map attached). The address is 19625 Gilman Hot

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Springs Road, Hemet, CA 92583. This is where the senior executives live and work. Until recently, the location of Int Base was not publicly known. Staffers who live on Int Base work a variety of jobs. RTC is operated out of Int Base and Golden Era Productions is also located there. Golden Era Productions is COS's media and publications division. Approximately 900 individuals live on Int Base. All staffers wear the same uniform and work from 7 a.m. until 11 p.m. on a typical day, but also regularly pull all-nighters for days on end.

Pacific Base / PAC Base - The broad term for the Los Angeles base of Scientology. The COS owns many buildings in the Hollywood area. Some buildings are called "berthing buildings" where Sea Org members live. There are allegedly 12 berthing buildings in the Los Angeles area. One is located at 5165 Fountain Avenue, Los Angeles. Additionally, there are several corporate buildings. The "main building" is the large blue building located at 4833 Fountain Ave, East Los Angeles. In the basement of the main building is said to be a RPF for wayward Sea Org members. Sea Org members who live in Los Angeles are bussed to work everyday to CSI corporate offices located at 4751 Fountain Avenue in Los Angeles, where Bridge Publications, Inc. (BPI) is located. BPI publishes only LRH books and is staffed entirely by Sea Org members. Sea Org members also are bussed to the building located at 7051 Hollywood Boulevard, Hollywood California. This is where the COS has a for-profit literary agency called Author Services, Inc. (ASI) which represents only one author - LRH. It is also staffed entirely by Sea Org members. Middle-management Sea Org members work at the building located at 6331 Hollywood Boulevard known as the "Flag Liaison Office" for the Church of Scientology International.

Witness Interviews

As a result of the initial complaint made to LAFO, Agents conducted interviews [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] By way of summary, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] career for Sea Org on Int Base. At Int Base [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He

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also witnessed uncountable beatings of others. [redacted] after [redacted] with Sea Org, [redacted] by Int Base Security trying to retrieve him. Riverside Sheriff's [redacted] Int Base Security. Two police reports from that day support [redacted] and are attached hereto.

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[redacted] and joined the Sea Org [redacted] California. [redacted] worked on Int Base almost her entire career with Sea Org. She worked at least 16 hour days, sometimes she worked several days in a row without sleep. She witnessed severe punishments and beatings of other Sea Org members, and stated that Sea Org women that became pregnant were coerced to have abortions. She described how communication with the outside world was severely limited. All incoming and outgoing correspondence at Int Base was reviewed for content and any inappropriate communications were discarded. Telephone calls were made only with permission and were monitored in real time by security guards. In the [redacted] on Int Base, [redacted] Once to [redacted] in Los Angeles. [redacted] described how, before [redacted] implemented strict punishments for all Sea Org members, whereby nobody was permitted to get married or to take any days off.

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The [redacted]

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Federal Statutes at Issue

The allegations made by Complainants and [redacted] if true, invoke federal human trafficking laws. The primary statutes at issue are under Title 18, Chapter 77 - "Peonage, Slavery, and Trafficking in Persons"

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18 U.S.C. 1589(a) - Forced Labor

Whoever knowingly provides or obtains the labor or services of a person by any one of, or by any combination of, the following means -

(1) by means of force, threats of force, physical restraint, or threats of physical restraint to that person or another person; or

(2) by means of serious harm or threats of serious harm to that person or another person; or

NOTE: "Serious harm" means any harm, including psychological, financial, or reputational harm, that would compel a reasonable person with the victim's background and in the victim's circumstances to perform labor, services, or commercial sex acts to avoid that harm.

(3) by means of the abuse or threatened abuse of law or legal process; or

NOTE: "Abuse or threatened abuse of the legal process" is defined as the use or threatened use of the law or legal process in a manner for which it was not designed to cause a person to take or refrain from taking some action." It can include threats of deportation, arrest, detention or institutionalization.

(4) by means of any scheme, plan, or pattern intended to cause the person to believe that, if the person did not perform such labor or services, that person or another person would suffer serious harm or physical restraint.

NOTE: "Scheme, plan or Pattern" includes:

- manipulation of debts,
- verbal abuse and intimidation,
- demeaning and demoralizing conduct,
- psychological manipulation and control,
- confiscation of identification documents,
- inhumane living and working conditions, or
- monitoring and surveillance.

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18 U.S.C. 1590 - Trafficking with respect to peonage, slavery, involuntary servitude, or forced labor

Whoever knowingly recruits, harbors, transports, provides, or obtains by any means, any person for labor or services in violation of Chapter 77.

Analysis

This human trafficking investigation will focus on the Forced Labor of Sea Org members at two locations: International Base in Hemet, CA and at PAC Base in Hollywood, CA. This investigation is not an attempt to discredit the religious beliefs held by Scientologists, but is solely focused on the forced labor of its elite Sea Org members.

Under the Forced Labor statute, 18 U.S.C. 1589(a)(1)-(4), each of the four enumerated means were used by [redacted] and others within the CSI to maintain the labor and services of Sea Org members.

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Sea Org members are recruited believing that they are joining the most elite organization within the Church of Scientology. However, once persons sign their "billion year" contract they are subjected to an unexpected lifestyle that they would never have agreed to and that is nearly impossible to reject. Utilizing the key language of the Forced Labor statute, [redacted] utilized a "scheme, plan or pattern" that caused Sea Org members to believe that if they did not continue working for Sea Org, they would "suffer serious harm."

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[redacted] "scheme" consisted of the following:

(1) Compensating workers less than \$50/week as a means of ensuring that no member could build sufficient financial means to support themselves on the "outside." Sometimes workers were not paid for months or even years.

(2) Limiting Sea Org workers' ability to freely communicate with each other and with friends and family by monitoring the number and substance of all telephone calls and by reviewing all incoming and outgoing mail for appropriate content. Workers were

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only permitted to communicate certain types of messages to people outside of Sea Org, and use of the telephone required written permission.

(4) Restricting Sea Org members' access to dental and medical treatment and the requirement that female members who became pregnant have abortions. CSI viewed young children as having no work value and believed children would only interfere with the employment of their mothers.

(5) Inhumane living and working conditions, including a minimum of 16 hour work days, no days off, and no vacations, despite promises during recruiting of having one day off per/week and 3 weeks vacation.

(6) Physical restraint in the form of secure fencing around perimeter of properties, and on-site video cameras, security guards and infrared technology to ensure workers do not escape. The fact that workers are not free to leave was clearly demonstrated when [redacted] attempted to escape from Int Base [redacted] Sea Org security guards. [redacted] corroborated in the police reports of two separate Riverside County Sheriff's incident reports dated [redacted] (Attached).

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(7) Control and manipulation of members through strict rules, including a forced daily schedule, uniforms, roll call four times/daily, assigned seating and assigned meal times, rules forbidding members to talk about wanting to leave or from talking about anyone who has ever left.

(8) Demeaning and demoralizing conduct by [redacted] and other top executives who regularly verbally and sometimes physically abused the workers, and subjected them to inhumane punishments.

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(9) Confiscation of all workers' passports.

(10) Psychological manipulation and control in the form of causing Sea Org members to believe that if they leave Sea Org they cannot have any further communication with their family members who are Scientologists. This threat alone is believed to be one of the main reasons why many Sea Org members do not attempt to flee the organization.

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(11) The threat of serious financial harm to the workers if they leave, in that they will be sent a "Freeloader's Bill" that they believe will obligate them to repay significant "debts" owed to the CSI as a result of training received while members of Sea Org.

With the reauthorization of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), "serious harm" in the context of the Trafficking statutes is now defined as "any harm, including psychological, financial, or reputational harm, that would compel a reasonable person with the victim's background and in the victim's circumstances to perform labor, services, or commercial sex acts to avoid that harm." That clarification is important in this case because Sea Org members who have been isolated from the outside world since they were born or since their teenage years are susceptible to unique psychological harm.

Based on the allegations of the [redacted] of Sea Org [redacted] reported in the St. Petersburg Times, a climate of fear was created by [redacted] and CSI whereby Sea Org members did not feel they had any choice but to stay working for Sea Org. Sea Org workers' lives are entirely manipulated by the coercive tactics of [redacted] and CSI, from the fenced-in living and working quarters, to the controlled uniforms and movement, the control of the workers' hours, salary and medical treatment, and the arbitrary penalties and punishments.

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Additionally, the Forced Labor statute also provides that a violation occurs when the labor or services of a person are obtained through the "abuse or threatened abuse of the legal process." That is defined as "the use or threatened use of the law or legal process in a manner for which it was not designed to cause a person to take or refrain from taking some action." In the Sea Organization, the Victims are forced to sign various written contracts that allegedly cause them to believe that (1) they are bound to service with Sea Org for a billion years, (2) if they leave the Sea Organization they will be disconnected from their friends and families forever, (3) they cannot ever report the abuses of Sea Org or they will incur substantial fines in the amount of \$50,000 per/public statement, and (4) if they leave Sea Org they will incur overwhelming financial "Freeloader Debts" for

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the costs associated with the workers' training while working for Sea Org. The use of these non-binding contracts that Sea Org workers are forced to sign is yet another means of coercive tactics used by CSI to ensure continued forced labor by employees.

Date of Incident: unknown Time of Incident: 08:00A
Date of Complaint: 07/20/2009

Incident Location: Hollywood, CA and Hemet, CA

Incident Street No.:
Street Name:
City:
State: Zip:

1. INCIDENT:
A. Community Area: Metropolitan
B. Violence: No
C. Death: No
D. Injury: No
E. Correctional Facility:
Facility Type:
Same as Incident Address:
Facility Street No.:
Street Name:
City:
State: Zip:

2. SOURCE OF COMPLAINT:
Complainants

3. OTHER AGENCY INVESTIGATING:
N/A

4. CASE AGENT CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name:
Name:
Telephone(s):
E-mail:

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E-Mail:
Address:

[REDACTED]

Los Angeles, CA 90024

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5. HUMAN TRAFFICKING (50) cases only:

- A. Approximate number of victims (reported): Unknown
- B. Duration of time in destination country (U.S.): varied
- C. Victim descriptions (multiple victims)
- D. Total number: Possibly over 1000
- E. Country/countries of origin: U.S., Australia, Germany, and other unknown countries
- F. Specific language/dialect spoken by victims: English
- G. Type of trafficking suspected: Forced labor
- H. Human trafficking task force involved? No
Task force name:
- I. Identify local non-governmental organization (NGO) or civilian victim-advocacy group involved: N/A
- J. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) point of contact: N/A
- K. Identity and contact number of division's [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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LEAD(s):

Set Lead 1: (Action)

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE

AT WASHINGTON, DC

For the Civil Rights Unit to review and forward the information to the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division.

Set Lead 2: (Action)

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE

AT WASHINGTON, DC

For the Public Corruption/Civil Rights Intelligence Unit. Read and Clear.

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