



Awareness

Advocacy

Action

Stop Trafficking! Newsletter www.stopenslavement.org/index.html

January

Human Trafficking Awareness Month

Sexual Exploitation of Minors Is a Form of Human Trafficking

Eighteen Child Porn Websites Shut Down

Through joint U.S.-China cooperation, a man was indicted in 2011 on federal charges of running 18 Chinese-language child pornography websites out of his apartment in Flushing, NY.

Chinese officials contacted the FBI in 2010 about their investigation of a large-scale child pornography website housed on U.S. servers. One of their main suspects, a Chinese-born man, was living in New York. So the FBI's NY office opened an undercover operation. The websites were being advertised to Chinese-speaking individuals in China, in the U.S., and in other countries.

While the main webpage advertised the various categories of pornographic pictures that were available, undercover agents, with the help of an FBI Chinese language specialist, discovered that in order to actually view, post, or download the pornography, one had to pay a membership fee (\$25 quarterly, \$50 annually, and \$100 for a 'lifetime' membership). The website conveniently accepted all payment types—credit cards, wire and bank transfers, online payments, and even cash that could be mailed to what turned out to be a money transfer office in New York. After becoming 'members,' the agents saw hundreds of disturbing pictures and videos of children of all different nationalities engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

The FBI determined that the site and its related online payment system resided on the servers of a web hosting company in Dallas and that the subscriber of the website domain lived in Flushing, NY. They also traced two e-mail accounts back to the same individual. Through billing information, they learned that the man had made about \$20,000 per month from his subscribers and had been operating the site since at least 2007.

After the arrest, the FBI identified 17 additional Chinese-language child pornography websites he allegedly maintained and operated and seized two servers in Dallas where those sites were hosted. All 18 websites were shut down.

The FBI's *Innocent Images International Task Force* has 100 officers working in 43 countries to find predators working globally. (http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2011/october/websites_101111/websites_101111)

Be Prudent When Posting Images Online

You may unwittingly be letting others know where you live and work and your travel patterns and habits. These details can be revealed through bits of information embedded in images taken with smartphones and some digital cameras and then shared on public websites. The information, called metadata, often includes the times, dates, and geographical coordinates (latitude and longitude) where images are taken. While the geospatial data can be helpful to plot image locations, it also opens the door for criminals, including burglars, stalkers, and predators.

Mobile phone users should check the settings on their phones (and any applicable mobile applications) to see if they are sharing location information. In many cases, the default setting is to share location information. "It's just a best-practice if you don't want to give out your location. We simply want to make sure people know this is happening," said an FBI agent. (http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2011/december/cyber_122211)

Youth Exposed to Porn Worldwide

Country	Ages	Boys & Girls	% of Boys	% of Girls
Australia	16 to 17		73%	11%
Canada	mean age 14		90%	60%
China	teens	70%		
Ireland	children	33%		
Italy	14 to 19		67%	15%
South Africa	13 to 17		84%	54%
South Korea	<18	83%		
Sweden	15 to 18		92%	57%
The Netherlands	13 to 18		71%	40%
Thailand	12 to 25	71%		
United Kingdom	9 to 19	57%		
United States	<18		93%	62%

For sources and more details, see:

<http://brushfiresfoundation.org/2012/03/06/youth-exposed-to-pornography-worldwide/>

Beware of 'Sextortion'

At the beginning of summer break, a 15-year-old FL girl logged onto her computer and received a startling instant message. The sender, whom she didn't know, said he had seen her photo online and that he wanted her to send him pictures—of her in the shower. When the girl didn't comply, the sender showed he knew where she lived and threatened to hurt the girl's sister if she didn't agree to his demands.

Worried and hoping to avoid alarming her parents, the girl sent 10 black-and-white images. When her harasser said they weren't good enough, she sent 10 more, nude and in color. Then he wanted more.

How Kids Can Help Prevent 'Sextortion'

- Don't take for granted that your computer's anti-virus software is a guarantee against intrusions.
- Turn off your computer when you aren't using it.
- Cover your webcam when not in use.
- Don't open attachments without independently verifying that they were sent from someone you know.
- Be suspicious. If you receive a message with an attachment from your mother at 3 a.m., maybe the message is not really from your mother.
- If your computer has been compromised and you are receiving extortion threats, don't be afraid to talk to your parents or to call law enforcement. (http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2012/february/sextortion_021012/sextortion_021012)