Human Trafficking in the News

**Philly man gets 30-year sentence for sex trafficking**
A 30-year-old Philadelphia man was sentenced to 30 years in prison for sex trafficking minors and adults by force. Jerel Jackson pleaded guilty to five counts of sex trafficking charges in March 2015. Prosecutors had alleged that Jackson forced two women and a minor girl into prostitution after first dating them when he was arrested back in 2013. The FBI had contended that he operated the prostitution business out of local hotels and also posted nude photos of the women online.

**Missouri continues work with Truckers Against Trafficking**
Missouri is about a year into a partnership with an organization that aims to increase awareness of human trafficking. Truckers Against Trafficking partners with state transportation departments, Highway Patrol units, truck driving companies, truck stops and others to distribute educational materials to truck drivers. The group’s materials focus is on domestic sex trafficking.

**7 men arrested in Aurora child sex trafficking sting**
Seven men were arrested after a two-day child sex trafficking sting last month, the Aurora Police Department said Tuesday. The department's Internet Crimes Against Children Unit performed the sting on May 18-19. The seven men were arrested for soliciting for child prostitution and criminal attempt to commit patronizing a prostituted child. Both are felonies.

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**TAT releases new, inspirational video**
In a short six minutes, Con-way Truckload driver Kevin Kimmel details his
experience with human trafficking while resting at a truck stop in Virginia. He shares what made him suspicious that something was wrong with the activity of inhabitants in a vehicle with blacked-out windows which had pulled back by the lines of quiet trucks and what happened after he called for law enforcement help. The video also shares the transformation that takes place in the lives of survivors once they're recovered from a life of slavery by giving a glimpse into the impact a number of them are making with their lives now that they're free.

"Kevin's story demonstrates the reality that we are all change makers," said Kendis Paris, TAT executive director, "and the power of taking a second look and getting involved. We wanted to create a video to inspire people, to help them understand that the choices they make can really unlock the pathway to freedom for someone who is being enslaved."

The video can be viewed on the TAT website by clicking here

Some of the survivors featured in the film commented on their participation:

Tajuan McCarty said, "During the time I was trafficked, I didn't have a voice. I couldn't speak for myself and no one looked at me as a person, I was only a commodity. To be able to speak now and help TAT raise awareness honors my past pain, and I pray helps others to see our pain, realizing we are worthy of more than being bought and sold."

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**Florida Trucking Association 'walks the talk' in TAT support**

Although Dr. Ken Armstrong, president and CEO of the Florida Trucking Association (FTA), had a general knowledge of human trafficking, it was in 2014 when he met Scott Perry, vice president of supply management at Ryder and a member of TAT's board of directors, that the issue took on greater urgency for him.
"Scott was so passionate and persuasive that I knew we had to do something special," Armstrong said. "My first tangible action was to invite Scott to be one of our key presenters for the board of directors' meeting at our annual conference. I also alerted our executive committee that I hoped, following Scott's speech, FTA would vote to formally endorse TAT and become an official partner. They liked the idea of FTA formally going 'on the record,' and sure enough, a motion was made and passed unanimously."

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Combined events for law enforcement, trucking in Washington work to strengthen relationship

When trucking and law enforcement work closely together, there is not only greater safety on the roads, but, when it comes to human traffickers, they pose a combined threat to this criminal activity.

In Washington state, the Washington State Patrol (WSP) and the Washington Trucking Association (WTA) have held their annual Truck Driving Championships and Washington State Inspector's Challenge as a combined event for 19 years. This year, Truckers Against Trafficking was invited to attend the June 18 event in Kent, Washington.

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Upcoming Events

July 9 - Night for Freedom, Greeley, CO, Michelle Bishop, TAT programs coordinator, presenting

July 12 - Denver Transportation Club, Denver, CO, Helen Van Dam, FDP director, presenting

July 12 - Present Purpose Network, Denver, CO, Kendis Paris, TAT executive director, presenting

July 14-16 - Iowa 80 Jamboree, Walcott, IA, FDP and Michelle Bishop, TAT programs coordinator, attending

July 29 - Ohio State Fair, Columbus, OH, FDP and Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director, attending

July 30 - Community Lecture Series, DCC Washington Park, Denver, CO, Michelle Bishop, TAT programs coordinator, presenting
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