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## HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN THE NEWS

### **Man sentenced to life for trafficking a 6-year-old**

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (Edited News Release/KAIT) A Palestine man was sentenced to life in prison for conspiracy to commit sex trafficking of a six-year-old child. Mario Waters, 34, was sentenced this week by United States District Judge Brian S. Miller. In February 2018, a six-year-old child was taken to Arkansas Children's Hospital due to symptoms that were later determined to be caused by several sexually transmitted diseases.

### **Texas man convicted of sex trafficking, possessing child pornography**

A Houston man pleaded guilty to several sex trafficking crimes and possession of child pornography Feb. 27 following a Human Trafficking Rescue Alliance investigation conducted by Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Houston, the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission and the Houston Police Department. A judge in the Southern District of Texas convicted Edgar Botello, 30, of conspiracy to sex trafficking; sex trafficking with force, fraud or coercion; and possession of child pornography.

### **Wyoming Highway Patrol visits truck stops to hand out info on Truckers Against Trafficking**

Officers at the Evanston port of entry recently visited local truck stops and businesses handing out information about Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT). This per a post on their social media. TAT's goal is to acquire an army of transportation professionals to assist law enforcement in recognizing and reporting human trafficking, in order to aid in the recovery of victims and the arrest of their perpetrators.

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### **TAT seeks to strengthen relationships, promote curriculum awareness at Calexico event**

In early March, the California Highway Patrol's (CHP) Industry Day in Calexico, California provided a platform for TAT and Nicole Gallego from El Pozo de Vida, a Mexican partner, to deepen law enforcement relationships in both countries and promote the Guardianes del Asfalto curriculum to the Mexican trucking industry members who attended.

Kylla Lanier, TAT deputy director and senior director of Public Sector Engagement, related that



*One of the duties Lanier performed in Calexico, was manning a booth of TAT and Guardianes materials.*

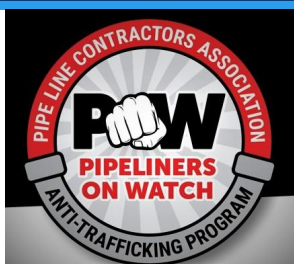


*Nicole Gallego from El Pozo de Vida, a TAT partner, spoke about the Guardianes del Asfalto curriculum at the Calexico event.*

approximately 120 people from key agencies and sectors in both countries attended the event. These included members of a new human trafficking task force in Arizona that combines civilians, ADOT and the Arizona Department of Public Safety, law enforcement and border patrol from California, Texas, New Mexico and Arizona, and representatives from the Mexican and American trucking industries, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), the Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA), CANACAR (the Mexican equivalent of the American Trucking Associations), and representatives from other Mexican associations, like AMO, the equivalent of Women in Trucking.

Gallego spoke about Guardianes del Asfalto (GdeIA), which is a replication of TAT's programming but from a Mexican viewpoint. Lanier shared that the AMO co-founder and president showed interest in partnering with/promoting GdeIA, while Collin Mooney from CVSA said CVSA would extend its influence in Mexico to help GdeIA move forward. Another organization working with trucking at the border expressed interest in possibly hosting a trucking event to promote GdeIA.

## Relationship grows between pipeline construction industry and TAT



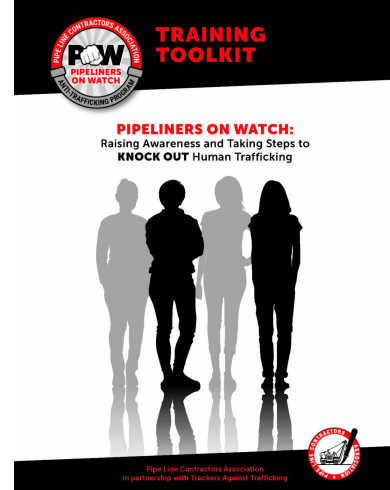
Following initial presentations last year by TAT on human trafficking and TAT's Empower Freedom program to members of the pipeline construction industry, the Pipe Line Contractors Association (PLCA) decided to tackle the issue head on and seek to play an active role in the prevention and intervention of sex trafficking.

"The Pipe Line Contractors Association is committed to combating the terrible crime of human trafficking," emphasized Elizabeth Worrell, managing director and chief legal counsel for the PLCA. "We developed our Pipeliners on Watch (POW) program, in partnership with Truckers Against Trafficking, to help educate pipeline workers on how to recognize trafficking victims and get them help. Our Pipeliners on Watch training program is one step the pipeline industry can take to combat the abuse, coercion and intimidation of human trafficking."

In late 2022, TAT and POW developed a **toolkit** and other PLCA-branded resources specifically designed for the pipeline industry. POW directs its network to TAT's

niche-specific training videos for the energy and trucking industries.

"The PLCA's promotion of the issue and TAT has already given Empower Freedom new platforms and opened doors to new prospective partners in the energy industry," shared Annie Sovcik, TAT's senior director of Programs and Strategic Initiatives, "including through the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America, and the Distribution Contractors Association Safety Congress."



On March 6, TAT and the PLCA teamed up in Fort Lauderdale, Florida to present on human trafficking prevention and intervention to 75 pipeline stewards from the International Brotherhood of Teamsters from throughout the United States. TAT and the PLCA shared information about POW and encouraged participants to share the Empower Freedom and TAT training video with their local unions.

Two days later, Sovcik presented at the 2023 Price Gregory International Safety and Leadership conference in San Antonio, Texas to an audience of about 65 safety managers, supervisors and pipeline foremen from various locations in Canada, Alaska and the lower 48 states.

This month, alongside Precision Pipeline, TAT will be presenting at the Distribution Contractors Association Safety Congress.

## Linde continues expanding anti-trafficking efforts

Laura Cyrus, TAT senior director of Industry Training and Outreach, took part in two webinars with Linde in late March. The webinar sessions were attended by an audience of more than 300 employees from around the globe and were the inaugural sessions for a new webinar series hosted by the Sustainability team within Linde. Tamara Brown, Linde's Sustainability vice president, and Martina Koenig, Linde's Corporate Social Responsibility manager, co-hosted the sessions, which were meant to bring human trafficking awareness to Linde employees worldwide and highlight TAT's work with Linde.



**Making our world more productive**

Cyrus shared a brief "human trafficking 101," a case study of how trafficking can intersect with the transportation industry, and information on TAT and the programming offered. She also related TAT's work, specifically through its Shipping Partners Program, back to sustainability, corporate core values, human rights initiatives and how organizations like Linde can activate their supply chain for social good.

The webinar also included speakers from Linde, including Jim Dimech, director of Transportation for Linde Canada, and Mariana Gouvea from Brazil, Communications manager at Linde company White Martins and Sustainable Development coordinator for South Latin America. Dimech, also a member of the TAT Canada Committee, shared about the rollout of TAT's training to the Linde (formerly Praxair) Canada fleet prior to the TAT Canada Program's existence. Dimech included a business case for incorporating the TAT training, which included the experiential effect of seeing drivers get excited about participating in an initiative that supports the company's commitment to investment in bettering communities. Gouvea shared about White Martins' work with the NGO Childhood Brasil and their efforts to educate truck drivers on the realities of the sexual exploitation of children throughout the country. Overall, participants were left with increased knowledge on the



issue of human trafficking across our world, an increased understanding of Linde's efforts to combat this social ill and encouraged to find ways to invest in their own communities.

Linde and TAT began partnering in 2016. A Platinum Level sponsor since last year, Linde has consistently increased their level of support for TAT since they came on board, and to date, they've trained 1,934 drivers. In 2018, they hosted TAT at their Danbury, Connecticut location to provide an awareness presentation to employees on-site and also included their work with TAT in that year's Sustainability report. The following year, they held a workplace giving campaign to raise money for TAT, and in 2022, they hosted a webinar on updates from TAT for distribution managers.

## STAT OF THE MONTH



**CASE DATA COLLECTED BY POLARIS PROJECT FROM 2015 TO 2017 SHOWED THAT APPROXIMATELY**

**845 POTENTIAL VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING WERE RECRUITED ON THE INTERNET**

Sources:

- Anthony, B. (2018). On-Ramps, Intersections, and Exit Routes: A Roadmap for Systems and Industries to Prevent and Disrupt Human Trafficking, Polaris Project. <https://polarisproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/A-Roadmap-for-Systems-and-Industries-to-Prevent-and-Disrupt-Human-Trafficking.pdf>

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**April 4** - Houston Energy Coalition Build, Houston, TX

**April 5** - Walmart, FDP, Sealy, TX

**April 5** - Pennsylvania Utility Commission (PUC), human trafficking virtual training at the Pennsylvania PUC Motor Carrier Conference

**April 6** - FedEx, Pittsburgh, PA, presentation

**April 12** - Virginia State Police, Richmond, VA

**April 12-14** - First Advantage, Collaborate Conference, Las Vegas, NV

**April 13** - Florida DOT and Center for Urban Transportation Research at the University of Florida, virtual training

**April 14** - Youth on Transportation event, Atlanta, GA

**April 15** - UPS Truck Rodeo, FDP, Atlanta, GA

**April 17** - Arizona Department of Public Safety law enforcement training, Phoenix, AZ

**April 18** - Distribution Contractors Association Safety Conference, New Orleans, LA

**April 18-24** - Transportation Intermediaries Association Capital Ideas Conference,

**April 19** - Utah DOT law enforcement training, Salt Lake City, UT

**April 23-27** - Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance Spring Workshop, Memphis, TN

**April 24-26** - Tennessee Highway Patrol, Women in Law Enforcement Conference, Nashville, TN

**April 26** - American Trucking and Transportation Insurance Company Monthly Loss Control meeting, virtual

**April 29** - UPS Rodeo, FDP, Cach, IL



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