



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

HSI dismantles organized crime visa and marriage fraud scheme

Strip Club Extortions

(Trucchio, Pazienza, Colon, Gutkowski, Frascone, Casella, and Zaino)

The named defendants are charged with extorting payments from the owners and operators of four gentlemen's or "strip" clubs located in Queens and Long Island in exchange for "protection" from competing strip clubs and other organized crime figures, including the resolution of disputes among strip clubs over the apportionment of illegal aliens from Russia and Eastern Europe to work at the clubs and disputes over ownership interests in certain clubs.

Visa Fraud Conspiracy

(Trucchio, Pazienza, Gutkowski, Casella, Zaino, Kravets, Devitt, Monfort, Wang, Yusupov, Mindyuk, Kuznetsova, Turubanova, Rinchey, Zeledon, and Beleson)

The named defendants are charged with participating in a scheme that recruited Russian and other Eastern European women and assisted them in fraudulently obtaining summer work and travel visas. The defendants procured and sent these women false job offers for waitressing and other positions they would then include on their visa applications. However, once the women arrived in the U.S., they worked as exotic dancers at the Strip Clubs, in violation of visa rules prohibiting employment in the adult entertainment industry.

Conspiracy to Transport, Harbor, and Induce Entry of Illegal Aliens

(Trucchio, Pazienza, Colon, Gutkowski, Casella, Zaino, Kravets, Devitt, Monfort, Wang, Yusupov, Mindyuk, Kuznetsova, Turubanova, Ivanova, Gunning, Rinchey, Zeledon, and Beleson)

The named defendants are alleged to have participated in a scheme to recruit women from Russia and other Eastern European countries through the Internet and newspapers to work as exotic dancers, and to fraudulently obtain visas so that the women could travel to the U.S. The scheme also involved housing these women at various residences and transporting them to and from the Strip Clubs.

Marriage Fraud Conspiracy

(Kravets, Kuznetsova, Turubanova, Ivanova, Gunning)

The named defendants are charged with operating a scheme in which, many of the Russian and other Eastern European women recruited to work as exotic dancers were coupled with U.S. citizens to enter into fraudulent marriages intended solely to give the women legal status in the United States.

COUNT	CHARGE	DEFENDANTS	MAXIMUM PENALTIES
1 2	Racketeering Conspiracy Racketeering	Trucchio, Pazienza, Colon, Gutkowski, Frascone, Casella, Zaino	20 years in prison
3	Extortion Conspiracy	Frascone, Casella, Zaino	20 years in prison
4	Extortion Conspiracy	Trucchio, Pazienza, Colon, Frascone, Casella, Zaino	20 years in prison
5	Extortion Conspiracy	Trucchio, Pazienza, Colon, Gutkowski, Frascone, Casella, Zaino	20 years in prison
6	Visa Fraud Conspiracy	Trucchio, Pazienza, Gutkowski, Casella, Zaino, Kravets, Devitt, Monfort, Wang, Yusupov, Mindyuk, Kuznetsova, Turubanova, Rinchey, Zeledon, Beleson	Five years in prison
7	Conspiracy to Transport, Harbor, and Induce the Entry of Illegal Aliens	Trucchio, Pazienza, Colon, Gutkowski, Casella, Zaino, Kravets, Devitt, Monfort, Wang, Yusupov, Mindyuk, Kuznetsova, Turubanova, Ivanova, Gunning, Rinchey, Zeledon, Beleson	10 years in prison
8	Marriage Fraud Conspiracy	Kravets, Kuznetsova, Turubanova, Ivanova, Gunning	Five years in prison

DEFENDANT	RESIDENCE	AGE
Alphonse Trucchio	Howard Beach, N.Y.	34
William Pazienza, Sr.	Bronxville, N.Y.	64
Christopher Colon	Howard Beach, N.Y.	37
Richard Gutkowski	Ridgewood, N.Y.	40
Anthony Frascone	East Meadow, N.Y.	62

Paul Casella	Franklin Square, N.Y.	45
Lawrence Zaino	Westbury, N.Y.	44
Aleksandr Kravets	Brooklyn, N.Y.	42
Thomas Devitt III	East Meadow, N.Y.	43
Gerald Monfort	West Babylon, N.Y.	54
Yong Wang	Flushing, N.Y.	36
Boris Yusupov	Brooklyn, N.Y.	36
Vitaliy Mindyuk	Brooklyn, N.Y.	43
Zhanna Kuznetsova	Brooklyn, N.Y.	24
Elena Turubanova	Dix Hills, N.Y.	24
Natalia Ivanova	Kew Gardens, N.Y.	43
Christine Gunning	Windsor, N.Y.	46
Jeffrey Rinchey	Kew Gardens, N.Y.	38
Oscar Zeledon	East Hampton, N.Y.	39
Alexander Beleson	Manalapan, N.J.	53

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.

ICE is a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.

For more information, visit: www.ICE.gov. To report suspicious activity, call 1-866-347-2423.