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Man sentenced to 97 years in human trafficking case

By [Vivian Ho](#)

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Photo: Marilyn Nieves, Getty Image
File photo of court room gavel. gavel

A San Francisco man convicted of sexually trafficking two girls, 14 and 16, flew into a rage in court Thursday just before being sentenced to 97 years to life in state prison.

[Jamar Geeter](#), 29, threatened one of his victims and shouted that she was a “whiny little bitch” while an advocate read aloud a statement from the girl, who was sitting in the courtroom. Geeter was removed from the room before San Francisco [Superior Court](#) Judge [Jerome Benson](#) issued the sentencing.

Geeter was found guilty in March of 16 counts of sex trafficking, pimping, pandering and rape in connection with his targeting of the Bay Area teens, who were reported missing by their parents. His case is San Francisco’s first under Proposition 35, which created stricter sentencing guidelines for people convicted of trafficking.

According to testimony at the trial, though the victims encountered Geeter six months apart, investigators were able to connect the two to Geeter based on similarities in their cases. They both described a man with the nickname “Terrific,” with a distinctive bullet scar on his abdomen and a “gold grill.” They also described particular rules that he enforced — including that they were to use condoms for customers, but not with him.

The first victim was 14 when she encountered Geeter in July 2014 and the second was 16 when she met Geeter on New Year's Eve.

Both girls described during the eight-week trial how he forced them to have sex with him, threatened and coached them into having sex with other men for money, and made it impossible for them to leave.

The 16-year-old victim was in court Thursday, sitting quietly in the front row. In her victim impact statement, read by an advocate with the district attorney's office, she described how after she returned home, she suffered from depression and had flashbacks of what he made her do.

"The only time I felt safe walking was when I had a Taser with me, or Mace," she said in her statement. "I used to walk carelessly, out with my friends, but now I feel like I lost my childhood because I live protecting myself day by day."

Geeter broke into her statement with an outburst in which he claimed to be hiring someone to kill her, screaming, "Got \$20,000 on her head!" The teenager began shaking and crying, but remained where she was as deputies dragged him out of the courtroom.

In court, his attorney, [Jose Umali](#), described Geeter as "a damaged individual" who suffered from trauma after he was shot at 19. He asked the judge for "mercy," to allow Geeter some freedom from what was certain to be a lengthy sentence.

Under Benson's ruling, Geeter will not be eligible for parole for 82 years, when he would be 111 years old. Umali said he planned to appeal.

Geeter was also ordered to pay more than \$240,000 in restitution to his two victims, though Benson said in court that he did not have the financial means to do so.

Assistant District Attorney [Rani Singh](#), who prosecuted the case, said that was proof that his threat in court was an empty one.

"To make that type of ridiculous statement was just another attempt to garner power over a victim who he has no more power over," she said.

She applauded the victim for maintaining her composure in court.

"She is such a tough girl," Singh said. "She was angry, not scared. She was so offended at the thought that he thought he could actually do something to her. She just knew, this was it and she would never have to see his face again."

Vivian Ho is a [San Francisco Chronicle](#) staff writer. Email: vho@sfchronicle.com Twitter: [@VivianHo](#)