

<http://www.wesh.com/news/25-arrested-in-orange-county-humantrafficking-ring/35402914>

# 25 arrested in Orange County human-trafficking ring

## Sting rescues 8, including 1 minor

UPDATED 8:09 PM EDT Sep 21, 2015

ORLANDO, Fla. —Twenty-five people have been charged in connection with a human-trafficking and drug ring operation in Orange County.

Casey King, 29, was fatally shot in front of a suspected drug house on 23rd Street on last Tuesday. Two days later, MBI agents served search warrants at seven target houses countywide.

Officials said eight victims have been rescued. One of the victims is a 17-year-old girl who had been trafficked since she was 15, said Attorney General Pam Bondi.

Detectives seized guns, two of which were stolen, cash and street drugs, such as heroin. Authorities said ringleaders used the heroin to keep these sex workers addicted and enslaved.

“That’s just as bad as being held in a cage,” Mike Gibson, with MBI, said. “There’s no difference.”

Because victims are often strung-out and brutalized, Bondi said they fear going to police or anyone else for help.

“Please come forward,” Bondi said. “We are here to help you.”

Bondi blamed the adult classified advertisement website Backpage.com for allowing human traffickers to advertise victims there.

An attorney for Backpage says they work with police in undercover stings and other online enforcement.

Authorities are still looking for Edward Redmond, 29, in connection with the trafficking operation. He should be considered armed and dangerous.

Anyone with information is asked to call authorities.