



This Month at the WFO

A newsletter from the FBI Washington Field Office

Issue 41 – September 2012

Leader of Crips Gang Sentenced for Prostituting High School Girls

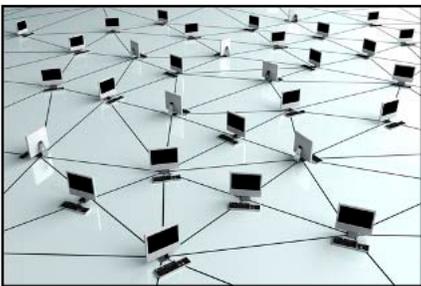
In April we told you about five members of the Underground Gangster Crips (UGC) gang, based in Fairfax County, Va., who were arrested for running a prostitution business. They recruited at least eight girls ages 16 and 17, along with adult females, in Northern Virginia, Maryland, and D.C. and threatened them with violence if they attempted to leave. This month, Justin Strom, the leader of UGC, was sentenced to 40 years in prison for leading this gang-controlled prostitution business that recruited and trafficked high school girls over a five to six year period. One of Strom’s associates, Henock Ghile, also was sentenced to 10 years in prison for serving as a driver in the sex trafficking enterprise. All five gang members have been convicted in this case.

Alexandria Man Sentenced for Seeking to Commit Suicide Attack at U.S. Capitol

Amine Mohamed El-Khalifi, a 29-year-old resident of Alexandria, Va., was sentenced this month to 30 years in prison, followed by 10 years of supervised release, in connection with his efforts to carry out a suicide bomb attack on the U.S. Capitol Building in Feb. 2012, as part of what he intended to be a terrorist operation. El Khalifi, an immigrant from Morocco who is illegally present in the U.S., was charged with attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction against property that is owned and used by the U.S. El Khalifi was closely monitored by the WFO’s Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) throughout this investigation. The explosives and firearm that he sought and attempted to use had been rendered inoperable and posed no threat to the public.

Man Who Submitted \$1.3 Million in False Medical Claims is Sentenced

This month, Luis Rodriguez, of Bethesda, Md., a contractor with the FAA, was sentenced to 46 months in prison for submitting more than \$1.3 million in false health care claims. Rodriguez is a Spanish national who is in the U.S. on a G-4 work visa, due to his wife’s employment with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The IDB offers health insurance to all of its staff members and their eligible dependents. IDB’s health insurance plan is administered by CIGNA. From March 2006 through April 2010, Rodriguez submitted approximately 880 reimbursement claim forms to CIGNA, identifying over 25,000 individual services such as physical therapy that Rodriguez claimed had been provided to him or his two minor children. All of the \$1.3 million in claims he submitted were false and none of the claimed services had ever been provided. Based on the submission of false claims, CIGNA sent checks to Rodriguez for more than \$1.25 million. IDB’s actual loss was just over \$1,014,475, which Rodriguez was ordered to pay in restitution.



WFO Investigates the Selling of “Botnets” that Infected Computers

Selling command-and-control access to infect thousands of computers can get you sentenced to 30 months in prison. That is what happened this month to Joshua Schichtel who attempted to cause damage to multiple computers without authorization by the transmission of programs, codes or commands, a violation of the Computer Fraud & Abuse Act. Schichtel admitted that he sold access to “botnets,” which are networks of computers that have been infected with a malicious computer program that allows unauthorized users to control infected computers. Individuals who wanted to infect computers

with various different types of malicious software would contact Schichtel and pay him to install malware on the computers that comprised those botnets. Schichtel pled guilty to causing software to be installed on approximately 72,000 computers on behalf of a customer who paid him \$1,500 for use of the botnet.

WFO Receives Anti-Defamation League (ADL) Award

This month, the ADL hosted law enforcement at it’s annual SHIELD Awards that honor successes in the fight against hate crimes and domestic and international terrorism. The WFO’s Joint Terrorism Task Force and partner agencies were honored for the investigation of Yonathan Melaku, of Alexandria, Va, who claimed responsibly for a series of shootings at military installations in Northern Virginia in 2010. Those buildings included the National Museum of the Marine Corps (twice), the Pentagon, and Marine Corps and Coast Guard recruiting centers. Melaku pled guilty in Jan. 2012 and currently awaits sentencing.



FBI Washington Field Office

601 4th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20535 Web: washingtondc.fbi.gov Twitter: @FBIWFO (202) 278-2000