

- Operation Island Express I & II: These cases targeted an identity and document trafficking organization (DTO) that operated in Puerto Rico, over twenty-six states, and the Dominican Republic (DR). The DTO trafficked the identities of Puerto Rican U.S. citizens and corresponding legitimate Puerto Rican birth certificates and Social Security cards primarily to undocumented aliens from the DR, Mexico, Guatemala, and Colombia. The customers used these documents to pose as those Puerto Rican U.S. citizens and to commit further identification, financial, passport, and other fraud. In indictments filed in 2012 and 2014, the defendants were charged with conspiracy to commit alien smuggling for financial gain, conspiracy to commit identification fraud, and numerous counts of aggravated identity theft. As of September 2016, 67 defendants in these related cases have been convicted.
- U.S. v. Ivan Kalymon: In 2011, a removal order was issued in U.S. immigration court directing Kalymon's deportation on the basis of his conduct in shooting Jews in 1942 while serving in a Nazi-sponsored police unit in German-occupied Ukraine.
- U.S. v. Roy M. Belfast, Jr. a/k/a Chuckie Taylor: The first federal prosecution for torture involved the American son of former Liberian President Charles Taylor. During his father's administration, Taylor commanded a Liberian security force that tortured civilians. Taylor was convicted after a jury trial and was sentenced in 2009 to 97 years in prison.
- U.S. v. Irfan Ul Haq, et al.: In 2011, Ul Haq and his two co-defendants were convicted of material support for terrorism and alien smuggling charges. The subject of an HSI/FBI sting operation conducted with the cooperation of Ecuadorian authorities, the defendants agreed to help smuggle a person they believed to be a member of a terrorist organization from Ecuador to the United States.

- U.S. v. Justin Cannon and Christopher Drotleff: In 2011, Cannon and Drotleff, contractors for the private security company Xe (formerly known as Blackwater Worldwide), were convicted after trial of involuntary manslaughter for the death of Afghan civilian Romal Mohammed Naeim, whom they shot to death while on an unauthorized convoy in Kabul, Afghanistan.
- U.S. v. Steven D. Green: In 2009, Green, a former U.S. Army soldier, was convicted after a jury trial in of charges arising from a 2006 incident in Iraq during which Green and other soldiers raped and killed an Iraqi girl and murdered her parents and sister. Green was sentenced to life in prison.

For assistance or further information about the Human Rights and Special Prosecutions Section contact

Teresa McHenry
Chief

teresa.mchenry@usdoj.gov
202-616-8385

Matthew Stiglitz
Principal Deputy Chief

matthew.stiglitz@usdoj.gov
202-305-3646

Eli Rosenbaum
Director, Human Rights
Enforcement Strategy and
Policy

eli.rosenbaum@usdoj.gov
202-616-2512

Hope Olds
Deputy Chief
Immigration Crimes /
Antiquities - Cultural
Property

Hope.Olds@usdoj.gov
202-514-0818

Christina Giffin
Acting Deputy Chief
Human Rights Violations

Christina.Giffin@usdoj.gov
202-514-5792

Pragna Soni
Acting Deputy Chief
International Violent
Crimes

Pragna.Soni@usdoj.gov
202-514-4866

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE CRIMINAL DIVISION



HUMAN RIGHTS AND SPECIAL PROSECUTIONS SECTION (HRSP)

1301 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington D.C. 20530
202-616-2492

Background

The Human Rights and Special Prosecutions Section (HRSP) is a component of the Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) in Washington, D.C. It was created in March 2010 by merging the Domestic Security Section and the Office of Special Investigations.

HRSP's responsibilities include enforcing federal criminal laws relating to:

- 1) serious human rights violations such as torture, genocide, war crimes, female genital mutilation, and use of child soldiers;
- 2) international human smuggling and other immigration-related offenses;
- 3) international violent crimes, particularly those involving U.S. government employees and contractors overseas; and
- 4) International antiquities looting and the illegal movement and sale of cultural property.

HRSP prosecutes cases, primarily in partnership with United States Attorneys Offices (USAOs), works on policy matters, and assists U.S. and foreign prosecutors. HRSP regularly works with law enforcement officials in the Department of Justice, other federal departments, and foreign governments. The Section works especially closely with Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and Customs Border Patrol (CBP); the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI); the Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS) and other State Department components; and various law enforcement agencies within the Department of Defense. HRSP also coordinates with DOJ's National Security Division, which handles terrorism-related matters.

Human Rights Violations

HRSP investigates and prosecutes human rights violators. Where federal jurisdiction exists, this effort includes the prosecution of individuals who engaged in torture, war crimes, genocide, female genital mutilation, and the use or recruitment of child soldiers. HSI and FBI are the principal law enforcement agencies with which HRSP works in pursuing these cases.

HRSP is involved in a coordinated effort with other federal entities to ensure that the United States does not become a safe haven for human rights violators. In this

work, HRSP has frequent contact with foreign governments, international tribunals and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

HRSP pursues accountability for human rights abusers in a variety of ways. In addition to prosecution for the substantive offenses, HRSP prosecutes for immigration and naturalization fraud related to efforts to conceal an abuser's background, trains prosecutors and agents on human rights law, and conducts outreach to NGOs.

HRSP plays an important role in the work of the inter-agency Atrocities Prevention Board (APB), created in 2012 to coordinate a "whole-of-government" approach to the prevention of, and response to, incidents of genocide and mass atrocities.

HRSP is also responsible for the identification, investigation, civil prosecution, and removal or extradition of participants in World War II-era Nazi-sponsored acts of persecution.

Immigration Crimes

HRSP is part of the Department's international policy initiatives related to criminal immigration enforcement, including ongoing bilateral and multilateral projects with various countries and U.N.-sponsored and other multilateral projects.

HRSP is a co-chair of the Alien Smuggling and Trafficking Inter-Agency Working Group (IWG), which plays a key role in U.S. government efforts to target major human smuggling organizations and other criminal travel facilitators based abroad, particularly those deemed to present national security or transnational organized crime threats to the United States or whose operations pose serious humanitarian concerns.

Working closely with HSI through the Extraterritorial Criminal Travel Strike Force (ECT), HRSP plays a leading role in the investigation and prosecution of cases involving IWG targets and other select human smuggling targets. HRSP also focuses on large-scale and multi-district immigration and identification document fraud networks.

HRSP provides early support and guidance to investigating agencies in the course of their investigations. In addition to working closely with investigative agencies and the USAOs, HRSP may coordinate with overseas counterparts to support, where appropriate, foreign investigations and prosecutions of targets of interest to the United States.

International Violent and Serious Crimes

HRSP prosecutes international non-terrorism-related crimes of violence and other serious felonies involving U.S. victims or perpetrators, particularly those involving U.S. employees or contractors. HRSP serves as DOJ's primary point of contact for matters arising under the Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act (MEJA) and has extensive expertise in cases involving the Special Maritime and Territorial Jurisdiction (SMTJ) of the U.S.

International Antiquities Looting and Cultural Property Crimes

HRSP investigates and prosecutes international antiquities looting and cultural property crimes involving a U.S. nexus, such as smuggling, possession, sale, and interstate transportation of stolen property, and mail and wire fraud. Working closely with the FBI's Art Crime Team, HSI, and CBP partners, as well as USAOs around the country we are involved in a wide-range of matters. We also are working with numerous Federal agencies and international partners to develop programs and projects to preserve and protect artifacts and cultural property in the U.S. and around the world.

Select Cases

- U.S. v. Jorge Sosa: In September 2013, following a trial by HRSP and the U.S. Attorney's office in the Central District of California, Sosa was convicted by a federal jury of naturalization fraud for concealing his involvement in a massacre in Guatemala. Sosa was a former commanding officer in a special military force that helped perpetrate a notorious massacre in 1982 in the village of Dos Erres, Guatemala. Sosa was sentenced to 10 years in prison and stripped of his U.S. citizenship.
- U.S. v. Joseph Martin and Christopher Heikkila: In 2015, Martin and Heikkila were convicted by a federal jury of sexually assaulting a 17-year-old female in Landstuhl, Germany while she was incapacitated due to alcohol consumption. The men used social media websites to post comments and exchange a series of messages planning the sexual assault and discussing the assault after it occurred. At the time of the crime, the defendants were employees of the Army & Air Force Exchange Service on Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany, as well as dependents of civilian employees of the military. The men were sentenced to 96 and 84 months respectively.