

THE OBSERVER



Monthly Publication

Volume 1 | Publication 9

Reporting Accurate and Objective Information Based on Facts, not Agenda-Setting Theories

Dominic Casey | Private Investigator

2:12 PM EST | November 3, 2009

[United Nations International Day to Abolish Slavery and Human Trafficking - Dec. 2, 2009](#)

Human Trafficking – Stop it Now!

(Part 4 of 4)

[\(Part 1\)](#) [\(Part 2\)](#) [\(Part 3\)](#)

D&A Investigations, Inc. has had an overwhelming response to our series regarding Human Trafficking. Our goal was to inform and increase awareness of this unforgivable enslavement, in hopes that many can be rescued so they too can pursue their rights in life. Part IV salutes the miraculous work of The Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking (FCAHT).

CEO and founder, Anna Rodriguez created The Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking (FCAHT) in 2004. The FCAHT is an entity within The Immigrant Rights Advocacy Center, Inc. (IRAC). Successfully developing and providing outreach services to victims of human trafficking, she also assisted victims who leave their enslavement. Implementing support programs, networking, coalition building, training, service delivery and referrals to helpless victims, provided hope and help. Anna Rodriguez's extensive experience regarding victim identification, advocacy and understanding how to pursue justice for victims is based on her experience in law enforcement. Active participation when delivering human trafficking case law is a key tool when assisting prosecution.

Giselle Rodriguez who is the State Outreach Coordinator for The Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking Tampa Bay, graciously accepted our request for an interview with **D&A** Investigations, Inc., Private Investigator, Dominic Casey.

An Interview with Giselle Rodriguez,

State Outreach Coordinator

(Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking, Tampa Bay)

DC: Why do you think the media has not given more time to reporting on Human Trafficking?

GR: "Many times when a case is first discovered Law Enforcement will not release any information on the case until the case has been prosecuted. So many cases go unreported. From personal experience, many journalists have advised me that they would only do the story if I could produce a victim. Many of our clients do not want to have to re-live their stories and do not want to come forward. The media needs to help awareness on this crime by writing more about the issue and what is being done. Another issue is that the media considers a smuggling case the same as human trafficking."

DC: What percentage of the 12 million stateless people do you think are trafficked?

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GR: "Unfortunately since this is a hidden crime, it is hard to tell how many are enslaved. Based on the statistics by the State Department, 2.5 million victims in the U.S. are victims of human trafficking. This figure could be higher or lower, but at this time no one really knows."

DC: Are the people who are being trafficked and living illegally in the USA, deported once they are rescued?

GR: "No. Once a potential victim has been identified and rescued by Law enforcement they are not deported. Law Enforcement needs for the victim to remain in the U.S. to be able to assist in the investigation and prosecution of the trafficker. Without a victim, the trafficker is free to exploit others."

DC: What is the actual rescue protocol for someone who wants to rescue a person who is being trafficked?

GR: "This varies from case to case. In some situations, Law Enforcement responds to a call for a different crime and finds that the case is potentially a human trafficking case. There are times when the victims themselves are able to escape and find a place in which to ask help. Other times it is the general community who spots the potential victim and alerts either Law Enforcement or a non-governmental organization in their area that can assist a victim. It is important to understand that a victim of human trafficking will not self report. This is why it is important for the general public to become educated in the issue as they may be the first person to help identify them as a victim."

DC: To what Law Enforcement agency should someone report possible traffickers?

GR: "The community can report a suspicious case to either local Law Enforcement or to Immigration and Customs Enforcement."

DC: Is it safe to try and rescue people who are trafficked or should one only use the services of Law Enforcement?

GR: "People need to understand that human trafficking is organized crime. It is dangerous for someone to try and rescue the victim by themselves as they may not be aware of where the traffickers may be. It is safer to have Law Enforcement assist in the rescuing of a victim"

DC: What cities in Florida have the highest percentage of human trafficking?

GR: "At this time we have seen most of the cases occur in South Florida, The Panhandle, the Tampa Bay area and Central Florida"

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DC: Is there a higher percentage of sex trafficking of people compared to labor trafficking?

GR: "Here in the State of Florida, there are more labor trafficking cases being found. There has also been an increase in male trafficking victims"

DC: When young children and runaway children disappear, is it realistic to think human trafficking is involved?

GR: "Yes, unfortunately, in the U.S., runaway and homeless children are prime targets for human trafficking. Most children who run away or are homeless can be lured into the sex industry within the first 48 hours of them hitting the streets"

DC: Does statelessness and human smuggling go hand-in-hand?

GR: "No, human smuggling is a business transaction between the smuggler and the person being smuggled. Once the smuggler has helped that person cross the border, they each go their separate way. Smuggling can be considered a crime against the U.S. government"

DC: How does an average citizen go about getting laws enforced more severely against human trafficking?

GR: "The best thing to do is become educated on the issues of human trafficking. Learn what organizations are in your area and find out what it is that they are doing. Also communicate with your Representatives, Congressmen, Senators and let them know how you feel about the issue and ask them what they are doing about the issue"

DC: Are people who are trafficked and sold also used as "mules" in the drug world?

GR: "There is research that shows that this type of activity occurs in countries such as Mexico and Colombia. At this time we have not seen this type of a case here in the U.S."

DC: How involved are Russians in human trafficking?

GR: "Yes, very much so"

D&A Investigations, Inc. would like to express our gratitude to Anna Rodriguez and Giselle Rodriguez for taking the time to help to us inform our readers regarding human trafficking. You can make a difference!

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FCAHT partners with Zonta Club of Sanibel-Captiva, Florida.

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The year 2008 marked [the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)

Resources:

[Training Manual to Fight Trafficking in Children for Labour, Sexual and other forms of Exploitation](#)

[Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking](#)

[UNHCR Progress Report on Statelessness 5.29.09](#)

[A Progress Report and Global Survey of Statelessness](#)

[The World's Stateless People - Questions and Answers](#)

[Nationality Matters \[Page 11\]: "Statelessness under International Law by Laura Van Waas and the 2009 Report by Katherine Southwick and Maureen Lynch on behalf of Refugees International"](#)

Prior Publications:

[Human Trafficking - Statelessness 10.8.09](#)

[Human Trafficking - Who Are The Traffickers 9.23.09](#)

[Human Trafficking - Crime Against Humanity 9.15.09](#)

[Media Fact and Fiction 8.7.09](#)

[Predicting Social Security Numbers 7.22.09](#)

[Identity and Information 5.31.09](#)

[And Things Are Not What They Seem 4.28.09](#)

[The Media and Reporting 4.17.09](#)

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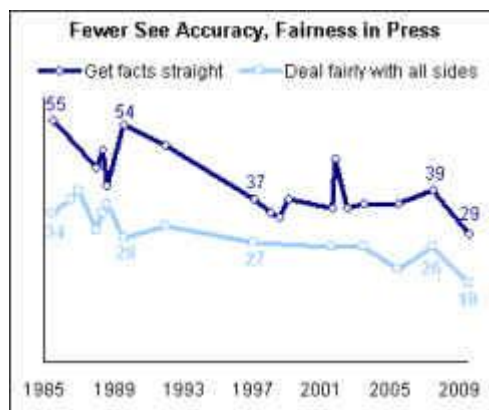
[The Media and Reporting 4.17.09](#)

Dominic Casey | Private Investigator

9:33 PM EST | September 16, 2009

In The News

Press Accuracy Rating Hits Two Decade Low



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According to the *Pew Report* 63% say that news stories are often inaccurate >>>> [read more](#)

There is no more important contribution that we can make to society than strong, publicly-spirited investigative journalism. – [Tony Burman](#), editor-in-chief of [CBC News](#)

Hugo De Burgh (2000) states that: "An investigative journalist is a man or woman whose profession it is to discover the truth and to identify lapses from it in whatever media may be available. The act of doing this generally is called investigative journalism and is distinct from apparently similar work done by police, lawyers, auditors and regulatory bodies in that it is not limited as to target, not legally founded and closely connected to publicity".
