



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LAST DEFENDANT PLEADS GUILTY IN SEX TRAFFICKING RING

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced today that Brent Andrew Stephens, of San Antonio, pled guilty to charges stemming from his role in a sex trafficking ring involving three young female Mexican Nationals, including two teenagers. Stephens is one of five defendants named in an indictment filed in San Antonio in June 2007, following a federal sex trafficking investigation.

At Stephen's guilty plea hearing today before United States District Judge Xavier Rodriguez, Stephens admitted that he conspired with others to harbor the girls for the purpose of putting them to work as escorts for men and in a massage parlor business that Stephens and his partner Timothy Michael Gereb planned to establish in San Antonio. Stephens also admitted that he conspired with Gereb to commit an offense against the United States—that being sex trafficking of the girls by force, fraud and coercion.

One of Stephen's co-defendants, Timothy Michael Gereb, was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison on March 12, 2008. Isabel Ochoa, Pilar Ochoa and Maria Ochoa pleaded guilty to related charges on Oct. 18, 2007. Maria Ochoa was sentenced to serve a term of one year in federal prison for conspiring to transport and harbor the female victims for commercial advantage, while her sister Pilar Ochoa received a sentence of 18 months imprisonment for conspiring to transport and harbor the girls. The mother of Pilar and Maria Ochoa, Isabel Ochoa, was sentenced to time served after pleading guilty to conspiring to transport and harbor aliens for commercial gain.

This case was investigated by special agents with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and investigators with the Bexar County Sheriff's Office. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Baumann and Civil Rights Division trial attorney Jonathan Skrmetti.

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