**CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING RESCUE GROUP COMPLETES SUCCESSFUL OPERATION IN HAITI, SAVING 29 GIRLS**

*Operation Underground Railroad partnered with Haiti’s Minor Protection Brigade in undercover sting, arresting 9 traffickers*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**–  Today, February 21, 2017 [Operation Underground Railroad](http://javelindc.pr-optout.com/Tracking.aspx?Data=HHL%3d8455%3a%26JDG%3c%3a873%3a6%3c%26SDG%3c90%3a.&RE=MC&RI=4174076&Preview=False&DistributionActionID=11681&Action=Follow+Link) (O.U.R.) announced that the group, partnering with [Haiti’s Minor Protection Brigade (BPM)](https://haiti.usembassy.gov/service/victim-of-crime-assistance.html) and Haitian authorities, [has successfully completed Operation Sainte Jou (Holy Day)](http://nypost.com/2017/02/20/this-man-freed-29-women-and-children-from-sex-trafficking/), an undercover rescue mission that resulted in the arrest of 9 traffickers and rescue of 29 girls suspected to be sex trafficking victims. O.U.R. went to Haiti at the invitation of BPM and acted under legal authority of the Haitian government. O.U.R. spent two months, alongside Haitian officials, developing this investigation, meeting with the traffickers, and setting up the operation to ensure the safety of the victims and jump team.

“This counts as one of our most successful operations to date. More than two dozen girls are now liberated, and with our continued support, do not have to return to a life where they are victims of the most depraved and evil in society. We hope to continue partnering with Haitian authorities to share and learn new investigation techniques and technology to ensure that pedophiles who prey upon the young have no place visiting Haiti. We are impressed with the Haitian government’s desire to do the right thing. O.U.R. remains committed to doing all it can to empower law enforcement in the U.S. and around the world to fight horrendous crimes of child exploitation and trafficking, ”said Founder and CEO  Operation Underground Railroad [Tim Ballard](http://javelindc.pr-optout.com/Tracking.aspx?Data=HHL%3d8455%3a%26JDG%3c%3a873%3a6%3c%26SDG%3c90%3a.&RE=MC&RI=4174076&Preview=False&DistributionActionID=11679&Action=Follow+Link).

O.U.R. has built a rehabilitation groundwork with the government and local partners to ensure victims can return to their parents where possible or into vetted safe houses where not. The local aftercare experts met with the girls directly after the operation and were able to meet with many of their parents to provide them with anti-human trafficking awareness and sensitivity training. O.U.R.’s work continues around the world. Since it was founded in 2013, Operation Underground Railroad has rescued 641 victims and arrested 273 traffickers.

*About*[Operation Underground Railroad:](http://javelindc.pr-optout.com/Tracking.aspx?Data=HHL%3d8455%3a%26JDG%3c%3a873%3a6%3c%26SDG%3c90%3a.&RE=MC&RI=4174076&Preview=False&DistributionActionID=11677&Action=Follow+Link)*O.U.R. is a non-profit organization that rescues children from slavery. O.U.R. rescue teams are comprised of highly skilled ex-Navy SEALs, Special Forces, CIA and other operatives. O.U.R.’s work has gained international media coverage  on*[CBS Evening News](http://javelindc.pr-optout.com/Tracking.aspx?Data=HHL%3d8455%3a%26JDG%3c%3a873%3a6%3c%26SDG%3c90%3a.&RE=MC&RI=4174076&Preview=False&DistributionActionID=11676&Action=Follow+Link)*,*[ABC Nightly News](http://abcnews.go.com/International/inside-dangerous-mission-rescue-children-colombias-sex-trafficking/story?id=26185510)*,*



Ex-CIA analyst Tim Ballard is now a sex-trade investigator — and he just cracked a major ring in Haiti that liberated 29 young women and children.

The Haiti operation, called Sainte Jou — Creole for Blessed Day — led to the arrest of nine suspected sex traffickers on Feb. 5, Super Bowl Sunday, by local authorities, who worked in tandem with the US organization.

“We are not a rogue agency, we are not vigilantes,” said Matt Osborn, a CIA and State Department veteran, who helps Ballard direct the group’s operations.

They target locales notorious for sex trafficking and then set up complex sting operations to nab the pimps and free the young women and girls.

In Haiti, a sting was set up at the Kaliko Beach Club, a high-end resort on the west side of the island of Hispaniola, which is shared by Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

On Feb. 3 and 4 — as Americans were preparing their Super Bowl parties — Osborn said a team of 25 men began flying in to “play the role of middlemen for wealthy American pedophiles.” They organized with the pimps to line up local girls — some as young as 13 — for an orgy.

“The average price we were going to have to pay was $300 for each girl, for what was billed as a sex party of four to six hours,” Osborn said.

By Sunday, a yacht moored off-shore was made to look like a wealthy party boat down from Florida for the weekend.

Most of the undercovers were wearing flip-flops and shorts and playing ball on the beach to give off a party vibe.

Ballard, who worked for the Department of Homeland Security as a special agent, met face-to-face with the pimps and recorded the details of the deal to hand over to Haitian authorities, who swooped in to break up the sex ring.

The US State Department said Haiti only passed legislation criminalizing sex trafficking in 2014.