

## Recent High Profile Cases Jewish, Israeli Men - Trafficking, Slavery

Several high-profile cases involving Jewish or Israeli men accused of trafficking-related crimes have made recent headlines. These cases range from child trafficking within extremist religious sects to large-scale sex trafficking operations in the real estate industry.

### **Lev Tahor Sect (Child Trafficking)**

The most widespread reports involve members of the ultra-Orthodox sect Lev Tahor, which has been investigated globally for allegations of child abuse, kidnapping, and human trafficking.

- **Yoel Alter (January 2025):** Interpol and Guatemalan authorities arrested Alter, a 35-year-old senior member of the sect. He was wanted in Mexico for human trafficking related to the forced marriages of minors.
- **The Weingarten Brothers (July 2024):** Yakov, Shmiel, and Yoil Weingarten were sentenced to 12–14 years in prison in New York. They were convicted of kidnapping and sex trafficking for smuggling a 14-year-old girl and a 12-year-old boy across the U.S. border to Mexico for an illegal sexual relationship.
- **Mexico Jungle Raid (2022):** A joint operation involving Mexican and Israeli agents raided a compound in Chiapas, leading to the arrest of several leaders for organized crime and trafficking offenses.

### **The Alexander Brothers (Sex Trafficking)**

In a major case within the New York and Miami luxury real estate world, three prominent Israeli-American brothers were convicted of a decade-long trafficking scheme.

- **Oren, Tal, and Alon Alexander (March 2026):** The brothers were convicted in Manhattan federal court on all counts of sex trafficking, conspiracy, and sexual assault.
- **The Scheme:** Prosecutors demonstrated that the brothers used drugs, alcohol, and force to assault dozens of women, filmed the acts, and transported victims across state lines.
- **Sentencing:** Each brother faces a minimum of 15 years and a maximum of life in federal prison.

### **Cyber Official Sting (Child Exploitation)**

A case in August 2025 involved an Israeli government official in Las Vegas.

- **Tom Alexandravich:** An upper-level official with the Israel National Cyber Directorate was arrested during a sex sting operation in Las Vegas.
- **The Charge:** He was accused of attempting to lure a 15-year-old girl (who was an undercover agent) for sexual contact.
- **Outcome:** He posted \$10,000 bail and left the United States for Israel, leading to legal and political controversy regarding his ability to leave the country before trial.

## **Organ and Artifact Trafficking**

Other cases have involved the illegal trade of human organs and cultural artifacts.

- **Levy Izhak Rosenbaum:** A Brooklyn-based man who became the first person convicted under U.S. federal law for organ trafficking. He arranged the sale of kidneys from donors in Israel to patients in the United States for hundreds of thousands of dollars.
- **Salim Hamdani (December 2025):** A Jewish man in Damascus was arrested on charges of trafficking archaeological artifacts after authorities raided his antique shop.

### **Reflection:**

Jewish activists have claimed that it is antisemitic to suggest that Jewish individuals are participating in crimes such as slavery, organ trafficking, or other illegal activities. However, it can be argued that this perspective overlooks the reality that individuals within any group can engage in wrongdoing.

Similarly, many Black activists have been criticized for failing to acknowledge criminal behavior within their own communities. The same concern is often raised regarding Democratic activists, who may fail to address misconduct within their political sphere. Republican groups have also faced criticism for not fully confronting wrongdoing among their members.

Across these different communities and political affiliations, a serious concern emerges: accountability can become inconsistent when individuals prioritize defending their group over addressing harm. While the intention may be to protect their communities, this approach can result in a failure to **protect society** as a whole.

As an example, TikTok removed a video by Huda Kattan in which she “promoted conspiracy theories” about Israel. Jewish organizations then expressed concern that her claims were antisemitic and that TikTok had allowed such content to spread. This raises an important question; what is the underlying reality, and what factors may distort or influence how that reality is perceived?

This situation highlights how harmful narratives can spread quickly and should be confronted. At the same time, truth should also be examined carefully, and accountability should be applied consistently and responsibly.

The Union of Saints is calling for the protection of all members of society. As well, the acknowledgment of truth, and accountability for that truth. Where extreme harms such as slavery and trafficking exist, they must be confronted, regardless of the group involved.

~Cowardrey

