

For Immediate Release

BackpageOrtega.com announces petition asking U.S. Attorneys General to indict or subpoena Tony Ortega. www.change.org/stopslavery2011

SAN DIEGO, California-July 01, 2021- Anti-trafficking website BackpageOrtega.com announced today the release of its new petition urging an immediate, full-scale investigation into the role Village Voice's Editor-At-Large, Tony Ortega, played in facilitating the sale of underage children and vulnerable young women and men.

The federal trial against all but one high-level Backpage.com executive begins in Arizona in 53 days. As of now, the only remaining senior person at Backpage.com yet uncharged is Tony Ortega – the former head of the Village Voice editorial department and public spokesperson for Backpage.com.

Known for making statements minimizing Backpage.com's complicity in human trafficking, Tony Ortega was the driving force behind an investigative series titled "The Truth Behind Sex Trafficking". In his piece, Ortega made clear which side of the Backpage human trafficking issue he was on, writing: "...we are being told that there's a widespread, growing, and out-of-control problem to fear in our country. And it has a catchy name: 'trafficking'." He added, "Seven years ago, the people I work for were smart enough to start Backpage.com."

Tony Ortega has been a long-term colleague of the owners of Backpage.com and a key player in Backpage's illicit sale of men, women, and children since the platform's inception. We believe the information Tony Ortega has been privy to over the years to be of utmost importance to the survivors of the Backpage sex trafficking scheme and the families of its victims. For the sake of justice, there can be no robust account of the full extent of Backpage's activity without first putting Tony Ortega on the record. This is where we need your help.

We urge all to read, sign, and forward this petition. Please join with us as we call upon Attorneys General in Arizona and beyond to indict or subpoena Tony Ortega as witness at the upcoming trial of Backpage's involvement in sex trafficking. Exposing the insider information that Ortega possesses, along with his intimate knowledge of the tactics and strategy employed by Backpage, is critical to the successful prosecution of the government's case against Backpage, and its corporately sponsored sex trafficking scheme.

Read the attached petition. Sign it. And be a voice for the survivors who deserve justice today. Please.

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www.stopslavery2011.com #StopSlavery #BackpageOrtega #BackpageArchitect