



## IMPORTANT ITEMS IN THE NEWS

### **Chinese workers found in 'slavery-like conditions' in Brazil taken to hotels as probe gets underway**

CAMACARI, Brazil (AP) — Dozens of Chinese workers found by authorities in poor condition at a construction site in Brazil for electric vehicle automaker BYD have been taken and placed in hotels in the country's tropical northeast region.

**Million Kids Insights:** *Jinjiang Group, the building contractor, is being investigated by Brazilian authorities. According to the MPT (the region's Ministry for Works department) inspections carried out since November found "degrading working conditions" at the site for the 163 workers, including beds in workers' accommodation lacking mattresses, and one bathroom per 31 workers. Workers, who spent long hours under Brazil's sun, had "visible signs of skin damage," and the MPT added that it suspected "forced labor," with workers' passports confiscated and their employer "retaining 60 percent of their salary." The Chinese workers had entered Brazil on temporary work visas and the Brazilian government said there were irregularities. While the labor contracts with the workers is being worked out, the workers have been placed in hotels. BYD said it has now terminated the contract with the building contractor and both BYD and Jinjiang are denying the allegations.*

*If trafficked, by definition, there is force, fraud and coercion/deception used. Often with human trafficking we see the workers entering legally on temporary work, or school, visas. They may have been tricked into thinking they were being hired for good paying international jobs. Once they arrive, as is alleged in this case, the documents are taken away to keep the workers from leaving. Another means of control is to use employer provided sub-par housing. They will often keep all or a large portion of the worker's salary as payment for exorbitant recruitment fees, travel, housing, and immigration processing fees. They may threaten legal action and bodily harm if they do not work or try to get away. As time passes, the documents expire and additional threats of turning the trafficked in to government authorities is used to keep the workers captive. Victims rarely know they have rights and what those rights are if they go to law enforcement.*



*This specific situation also presents a political dilemma. The factory is considered a symbol of the growing influence of China in Brazil as well as providing a large influx of money and possible jobs for the local Brazilians. However, one of the complaints has been that the Chinese company has been bringing in their own employees. (Side note: when using forced trafficked labor, it costs the company a lot less so there is a financial advantage. Probably why so many companies may allow it and turn a blind eye.) In the wake of the accusations, the Brazilian authorities have suspended temporary work visas to BYD. There is a hearing scheduled for January 7 to review the allegations and make determinations of what happens next.*

[LINK TO FULL ARTICLE](#)

### **Human Trafficking Risk Has Been Rising in Western North Carolina Since Helene**

Human traffickers are trickling into western North Carolina to exploit the trail of vulnerability that Hurricane Helene left in its wake, a law enforcement representative warned at a recent North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission meeting.

**Million Kids Insights:** *We see human trafficking increase across the globe wherever or whenever there is a natural disaster, conflict, or some type of destabilizing event. One report said trafficking increases afterward because of: Desperation, Disruption, Displacement, and Discrimination. Some of the more specific causes include: isolation factors, limited resources including food, loss of jobs and transportation, lost housing and a victim unknowingly turns to a trafficker for help, bringing in forced labor to assist with clean-up of the damage, disaster creates orphans, and some groups are specifically targeted to be trafficked. Traffickers have been known to exploit the vulnerable by promising food, shelter, and other resources, sometimes posing as disaster responders or social service professionals to gain trust.*

*After Hurricane Harvey, there was a significant surge in online sex ads throughout the Houston area. Some factors could explain the increase as traffickers trying to recoup income lost during the storm, individuals entering or returning to prostitution because of their losses, or an influx of ads in anticipation of an increased population of male workers in the Houston area for storm recovery related work.*

*One year after the 2004 tsunami struck, Indonesian officials had identified 625*



*human trafficking victims; this jump represented more than a 500% increase over reported cases before the tsunami. Labor trafficking was a major problem after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, as an estimated 3,700 workers, or more, from 10 different countries were victimized. The current war in the Ukraine has also had a big impact as many have paid smugglers to move them into other countries, including many unaccompanied minors. The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) cites Thomson Reuters data indicating “huge spikes in online searches – across multiple languages and countries - for explicit content and sexual services from Ukrainian women and girls.”*

*There have been studies and research on how to prevent the increase in trafficking. The biggest push seems to be for proactive training for emergency workers that includes response mechanisms, awareness, reporting, and mitigation measures. Many emergency and support workers said they realized the importance of training in stopping human trafficking, but most said they had not received any or had only received limited training.*

*There also needs to be anticipatory education for the community so that they don't fall prey to predators. The Office on Trafficking in Persons says the public needs to recognize these examples of what is most likely coming from a predator:*

#### **LABOR TRAFFICKING**

- *Work that comes with perks that seem too good to be true (immigration assistance, extravagant wages)*
- *False rebuilding or construction jobs advertised on social media*
- *Traffickers posing as disaster responders at distribution sites and offering employment*

#### **SEX TRAFFICKING**

- *Offers to stay at a stranger's home instead of a shelter*
- *Offers to make quick money to help support family and get back on one's feet*
- *Offers of drugs when methadone clinics and other services are closed during and after the disaster*

[LINK TO FULL ARTICLE](#)



### **CSAM on OnlyFans? Investigator Reports 26 Accounts, Sparks Scrutiny**

A child exploitation investigator has raised concerns about multiple accounts on the adult content platform OnlyFans, identifying 26 accounts suspected of hosting sexual content involving underage girls. Matt W.J. Richardson, the head of intelligence at The Canadian Open Source Intelligence Centre, reported the accounts to authorities on December 16, according to a Reuters report.

**Million Kids Insights:** *OnlyFans says it prohibits content featuring CSAM - the exploitation or abuse of anyone under 18, even if it's adults "pretending to be" under 18 - BUT it seems like it shows up on a regular basis. And it seems like the CSAM sites often don't get removed until someone investigates and reports them. In some cases, the OnlyFans posts may be using what is called "legacy CSAM": sexually explicit photos taken when the female was an underage minor but posted when she was 18 or over. These would still violate laws governing child sexual abuse material, three legal experts told Reuters.*

*According to Reuters, generating less attention are U.S. cases where women endured weeks or months of alleged sex slavery by someone they knew in ordinary-looking homes in normal neighborhoods. One woman said she was forced by her boyfriend to record sex acts almost nightly to be sold online, including OnlyFans, for almost two years. At one point he poured hot grease down her back before she was finally able to escape. In other cases, court records show that the women being recorded have been deceived, drugged, terrorized and sexually enslaved.*

*This is very different from OnlyFans saying it empowers content creators, especially women, to provide sexually explicit images and videos in a safe online environment while making money. The actual number of children and women who are being trafficked on the platform is very difficult to assess as they are often hidden behind subscription- based paywalls.*

[LINK TO ARTICLE](#)

### **Florida Man Pleads Guilty to Producing, Distributing, Creating Thousands of Images Depicting Child Sexual Abuse Material, Using Artificial Intelligence**

A Florida man, Justin Ryan Culmo (40), has plead guilty to multiple counts of production, possession, and distribution of tens of thousands of images and videos,



including using generative artificial intelligence (AI) to create depictions of the sexual abuse of children following an investigation by Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Tampa.

**Million Kids Insights:** *According to court documents, Culmo produced child sexual abuse imagery involving children as young as infants and toddlers, and produced thousands of images of child sexual abuse using generative artificial intelligence (AI). Culmo possessed approximately 85,00 images of child sexual abuse material, 845 videos of child sexual abuse material, and 8,500 AI-generated images of child sexual abuses. Culmo was arrested in September 2023 as he had been linked to an online community of individuals who regularly produced, distributed, and received CSAM on the dark web. There was probable cause to believe that Culmo used the screen names "Avalanche" and/or "TheRealAvalanche." There was CSAM dating back to 2011, and he had taken (or received) over a thousand of photos of girls coming and going from a local middle school that he lived across the street from. Filings say that Culmo also admitted to taking CSAM images of both of his daughters. Agents confirmed that a bathroom in Culmo's home was also the site where multiple videos were created of prepubescent children in varying phases of undress.*

*If you aren't familiar with it, the dark web exists on the internet but requires specific software and configurations. It is part of the web that is not indexed by web search engines and is known to contain illegal activities such as hacking, illegal pornography, and financing and fraud. You need to install a Tor browser (Onion) or you can use a VPN to connect to Tor.*

*Just about anytime we see someone with that many photos and videos, they are most likely part of an online CSAM group. The groups often require the members, partly to prove they aren't law enforcement, to take extremely graphic videos or photos of younger and younger children.*

[LINK TO FULL ARTICLE](#)

**FREE ONLINE WORKSHOPS**





In conjunction with Children's Fund, Million Kids is excited to announce the upcoming free online workshops (all times are Pacific).

January 7 at 1:30PM - Sextortion: The Global Pandemic (Opal Singleton)

January 13 at 9:00AM - Human Trafficking Investigations (Nancy Aguirre)

January 21 at 9:00AM - Overview of Youth Social Media Trends (Clark Morrow)

January 23 at 9:00AM - Missing Kids, Runaway Youth, and Enticements (Lynda Bergh Herring)

January 28 at 1:30PM - Human Trafficking of Foreign National Individuals within the U.S. (Opal Singleton)

February 4 at 1:30PM - Global CSAM (Child Sexual Abuse Materials) (Opal Singleton)

February 10 at 9:00AM - The devastating impact of Fentanyl, and other dangerous drugs on our youth (Tonya Holt)

February 13 at 9:00AM - How well do you know your child? (Lynda Bergh Herring)

February 19 at 9:00AM - Overview of Youth Social Media Trends (Clark Morrow)

February 23 at 1:30PM - Human Trafficking of Foreign National Individuals within the U.S. (Opal Singleton)

### **This Week's Radio Show - Scam Farms, Click Farms, Bot Farms, and Character AI**

WHAT ARE THEY? WHY YOU NEED TO KNOW TO EDUCATE YOURSELF AND YOUR CHILDREN.

The past several months have brought us a technology transformation unlike anything we have ever seen. As third world countries have joined the world wide web because of 5G high speed internet, literally millions of poor individuals are enslaved in scam farms in countries like Myanmar, Nigeria, Egypt, Ivory Coast and Philippines. They conduct fraudulent online scams to extract millions of dollars from U.S. teens, adults and senior citizens. The FTC reported that more than \$10 Billion was lost in online scams in the U.S. in 2023.

During this week's show we will discuss scam farms, click farms and bot farms operate and the devastating effect it has on U.S. citizens when they fall prey to



overseas scam artists. It is critical that adults and youth alike, understand how the globally connected world means that no one is safe from falling prey to an overseas scam artist.

Join us this Saturday at 3:00 PM on AM 590 (Riverside) or go to [www.AM590TheAnswer.com](http://www.AM590TheAnswer.com) - search for keyword Opal

Or listen on Spotify - [CLICK HERE](#)