



U.S. Attorney's Office: 4 SD men federally charged with sex trafficking at Sturgis Rally

ANGELA GEORGE Sioux Falls Argus Leader

RAPID CITY – Four South Dakota residents were arrested during the 85th annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally for an alleged sex trafficking operation, the U.S. Attorney’s Office announced Aug. 8.

U.S. Attorney Alison J. Ramsell said all four men were separately apprehended “while attempting to meet with a person who they believed to be a 14-year-old girl for the purposes of engaging in sexual activity.”

“The sophisticated sting operation pulled together local, state and federal law enforcement resources to take dangerous sexual predators off the streets,” Ramsell said.

Involved law enforcement personnel included South Dakota’s Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) and Division of Criminal Investigation, the Pennington County Sheriff’s Office, the Rapid City Police Department, the Ellsworth AFB Office of Special Investigations, the U.S. Marshals Service and the FBI.

Ramsell said the nationwide initiative Project Safe Childhood also helped to marshal resources for this sting operation as well as identify and rescue victims.

More from the rally: [Fatality count now up to 4 at the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.](#)

The men facing federal charges for the joint sex trafficking and child exploitation operation include 36-year-old Elmer Hopper, of Rapid City; 23-year-old Beau Remington, of Black Hawk; 30-year-old Jayson “Javi” Gomez, of Rapid City; and 36-year-old Joshua Michael Allen, of Hermosa, all of whom were charged with attempted enticement of a minor using the internet. Remington was also charged for attempted transfer of obscene material to a minor.

“All who participated in this operation and the members of the ICAC Task Force work tirelessly to keep the children of South Dakota safe,” said ICAC Task Force commander Toby Russell. “They should all be commended for their tenacity in how they pursue these offenders.”

According to the U.S. Attorney’s Office, a mandatory minimum penalty upon conviction of these charges is 10 years up to life in federal prison.

Angela George is a trending news reporter for the Argus Leader in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, part of the USA Today Network. Email ageorge@gannett.com.

