



Federal Criminal and Civil Trafficking Cases Involving Legal Visas

Foreign-born human trafficking victims frequently enter the United States with legal visas, eager to work in legitimate jobs. The widely-held belief that all trafficking victims enter the country without documentation is simply false. In fact, in a large number of federal criminal and civil trafficking cases, victims have legal contracts to work as seasonal agricultural workers, seasonal tourism-industry workers, domestic workers, au pairs, and even highly-skilled workers. Instead, the workers discover that their employer-sponsored visas render them vulnerable to traffickers. Unscrupulous employers threaten foreign workers with revocation of their employment sponsorship, blacklisting, or even deportation to coerce the workers into forced labor or services. Workers often owe considerable debts to their employer or recruitment agents to repay exorbitant recruitment fees.

Traffickers sometimes threaten workers that they will owe thousands of dollars if they “abscond.” In other cases, traffickers threaten family members in the country of origin. The workers feel trapped, believing that they have no choice but to continue working in exploitative conditions, often for far less pay than promised, if any.

The tables below list criminal and civil cases with at least one charge or claim under the federal human trafficking statutes, Chapter 77 of Title 18. These lists may not be exhaustive, as not all cases reference the underlying visa category. If you are aware of additional human trafficking civil or criminal cases involving legal visas, please contact The Human Trafficking Legal Center at info@htlegalcenter.org.

Federal Criminal Trafficking Cases Involving Legal Visas (2009-2020)

Case Name	Docket Number	Jurisdiction	Alleged Trafficking Type	Visa Type
US v. Zhong et al.	1:16-cr-00614	E.D.N.Y.	labor	A-2/G-2
US v. Homoud et al.	5:15-cr-00391	W.D. Tex.	labor	A-3
US v. Penzato et al.	3:12-cr-00089	N.D. Cal.	labor	A-3
US v. Tolan	1:11-cr-00526	E.D. Va.	labor	A-3
US v. Alvarado McTague et al.	5:14-cr-00055	W.D. Va.	labor	B-1
US v. Edwards et al.	8:11-cr-00316	D. Md.	labor	B-1
US v. Terechina	2:10-cr-00088	S.D. Oh.	labor	B-1
US v. Babb et al.	1:09-cr-00520	N.D. Ga.	labor	B-1/B-2
US v. Ding	4:09-cr-00573	N.D. Cal.	labor	B-1/B-2
US v. Huang	0:16-cr-00263	D. Minn.	labor	B-1/B-2
US v. Kartan et al.	2:16-cr-00217	E.D. Cal.	labor	B-1/B-2
US v. Khan et al.	4:18-cr-00119	E.D. Tex.	labor	B-1/B-2
US v. Martinez Vasquez et al	2:19-cr-00112	E.D. Cal.	labor	B-1/B-2
US v. Mulembwe	4:17-cr-00191	E.D. Tex.	labor	B-1/B-2
US v. Petrohai	1:10-cr-00693	E.D.N.Y.	labor	B-1/B-2
US v. Cros-Toure et al.	4:18-cr-00230	N.D. Tex.	labor	B-2
US v. Nsobundu et al.	4:16-cr-00089	S.D. Tex.	labor	B-2
US v. Toure et al.	4:18-mj-00268	N.D. Tex.	labor	B-2
US v. Yannai et al.	1:10-cr-00594	E.D.N.Y.	labor	B-2
US v. Alstatt et al.	8:10-cr-00420	D. Neb.	labor	DV
US v. Jumroon	3:18-cr-00036	D. Or.	labor	E-2
US v. Jumroon	3:18-cr-00255	D. Or.	labor	E-2
US v. Cabactulan et al.	2:20-cr-00079	C.D. Cal.	labor	Multiple
US v. Chang	1:11-cr-00067	E.D.N.Y.	labor	F-1
US v. Miller	4:14-cr-00409-	D.S.C.	labor	F-1
US v. Sukhtipyaroge	0:17-cr-00208	D. Minn.	labor	F-1
US v. Kalu et al.	1:12-cr-00106	D. Colo.	labor	H-1B
US v. Cabrera et al.	0:15-cr-00190	D. Minn.	labor	H-2A

US v. Ceneus	1:10-cr-00027	N.D. Fla.	labor	H-2A
US v. Garcia et al.	2:19-cr-00096	E.D. Wis.	labor	H-2A
US v. Orian	1:10-cr-00576	D. Haw.	labor	H-2A
US v. Sou	1:09-cr-00345	D. Haw.	labor	H-2A
US v. Askarkhodjaev	4:09-cr-00143	W.D. Mo.	labor	H-2B
US v. Baldonado	9:10-cr-80057	S.D. Fla.	labor	H-2B
US v. Manuel et al.	9:10-cr-80057	S.D. Fla.	labor	H-2B
US v. Villanueva et al.	2:17-cr-0592	E.D.N.Y.	labor	H-2B
US v. Campbell	1:10-cr-00026	N.D. Ill.	labor/sex	J-1
US v. Cooper	1:16-cr-20345	S.D. Fla.	sex	J-1
US v. Hunaity	1:18-cr-00723	D.N.J.	labor	Type Unknown

Updated 7/22/20

Federal Civil Trafficking Cases Involving Legal Visas (2003-2020)

Case Name	Docket Number	Jurisdiction	Alleged Trafficking Type	Visa Type
Ayapponey v. Kunikiraman	1:08-cv-04133	N.D.Ill.	labor	A-3
Bhardwaj v. Dayal	1:11-cv-04170	S.D.N.Y.	labor	A-3
Butigan v. Al-Malki	1:13-cv-00514	E.D.Va.	labor	A-3
Doe v. Khobragade	1:18-cv-11134	S.D.N.Y.	labor	A-3
Doe v. Penzato	3:10-cv-05154	N.D.Cal.	labor	A-3
Doe v. Siddig	1:10-cv-01256	D.D.C.	labor	A-3
Gurung v. Malhotra	1:10-cv-05086	S.D.N.Y.	labor	A-3
Hussain v. Shaukat	1:16-cv-00322	E.D.Va.	labor	A-3
Jeganathan v. Krishnan	1:16-cv-06784	S.D.N.Y.	labor	A-3
Judavar v. Al Mannai	1:11-cv-00625	D.D.C.	labor	A-3
Kunamwene v. Mwoombola et al	1:19-cv-01957	D.D.C.	labor	A-3
Lipenga v. Kambalame	8:14-cv-03980	D.Md.	labor	A-3
Maysaroh v. American Arab Communications, LLC	1:13-cv-01743 (later 1: 14-cv-00866)	D.D.C. (transferred to E.D.Va.)	labor	A-3
Mazengo v. Mzengi	1:07-cv-00756	D.D.C.	labor	A-3
Oluoch v. Orina	1:14-cv-421 (prev: 11- cv-3117)	S.D.N.Y.	labor	A-3
Pattaiso v. Alahmad	1:14-cv-00041	M.D.Pa.	labor	A-3
Rana v. Islam	1:14-cv-1993	S.D.N.Y.	labor	A-3
Sabbithi v. Al Saleh	1:07-cv-115	D.D.C.	labor	A-3
Tekle v. Al Saud	1:18-cv-00211	E.D. Va.	labor	A-3
Villarreal v. Tenorio	8:11-cv-2147	D.Md.	labor	A-3
Waru v. Madhvani	1:05-cv-00662	D.D.C.	labor	A-3
Leo v. Al Naser	1:08-cv-01263	D.D.C.	labor	A-3
Arma v. Prakoso	8:14-cv-03113	D.Md.	labor	B-1
Avila v. Espinel	1:19-cv-08385	N.D.Ill.	labor	B-1
Bolocon v. Sermoneta	1:16-cv-00521	S.D.N.Y.	labor	B-1
C.G.B. v. Santa Lucia	2:15-cv-03401	D.N.J.	labor	B-1
Dumapias v. Haybyrne	1:20-cv-00297	E.D.Va.	labor	B-1

Edwards v. Edwards	8:12-cv-03761	D.Md.	labor	B-1
Eusebio v. Assaf	1:11-cv-00811	N.D.Ill.	labor	B-1
Fernandes v. Hayes	6:11-cv-00137	W.D.Tex.	labor	B-1
Garnica v. Edwards	1:13-cv-3943	S.D.N.Y.	labor	B-1
Jose v. Joshua et al	2:19-cv-04583	E.D.N.Y.	labor	B-1
Lesnik v. Tesla	5:16-cv-01120	N.D.Cal.	labor	B-1
Llanto v. Esmail	1:17-cv-01159	E.D.N.Y.	labor	B-1
Midjan v. Chan	3:07-cv-01977	N.D.Cal.	labor	B-1
Moratal v. Nolasco	1:10-cv-06008	E.D.N.Y.	labor	B-1
Muchira v. Al-Rawaf	14-cv-00770 (number on appeal: 15-2198)	E.D.Va.	labor	B-1
Mugambiwa v. Chiweshe	1:17-cv-02541	D. Md.	labor	B-1
Roncesvalles v. Gulec	0:19-cv-60495	S.D.Fla.	labor	B-1
Samirah v. Sabhnani	2:08-cv-2970	E.D.N.Y.	labor	B-1
Sandigan v. Al-Emadi	1:15-cv-01691	E.D.Va.	labor	B-1
Suarez v. Scudder	2:18-cv-05777	E.D.N.Y.	labor	B-1
Dlamini v. Babb	1:13-cv-02699	N.D. Ga.	labor	B-1/B-2
DSouza v. Lobo	2:09-cv-00410	E.D.N.Y.	labor	B-1/B-2
Josenia Ferreyra Santos v. Villalona et al.	1:20-cv-05253	S.D.N.Y.	labor	B-1/B-2
Mahammad v. Prosoft Technology Group	1:18-cv-08173	N.D.Ill.	labor	B-1/B-2
Mbome v. Njie	4:18-cv-00597	N.D.Tex.	labor	B-1/B-2
Nassali v. Kamyra	8:19-cv-02444	D.Md.	labor	B-1/B-2
Sulastri v. Halsey	2:12-cv-3538	E.D.N.Y.	labor	B-1/B-2
Treadway v. Otero	2:19-cv-00244	S.D.Tex.	labor	B-1/B-2
Cruz v. Toliver	5:04-cv-231	W.D.Ky.	labor	B-2
Daniel v. Madumere	4:19-cv-01945	S.D.Tex.	labor	B-2
Doe v. Pletin	2:18-cv-06974	E.D.N.Y.	labor	B-2
Does v. Chang	3:08-cv-2189	N.D.Tex.	labor	B-2
Hara v. Mak	2:13-cv-02924	E.D.N.Y.	labor	B-2
Lagayan v. Odeh	1:15-cv-01953	D.D.C.	labor	B-2
Lunkes v. Yannai	1:12-cv--00630-	E.D.N.Y.	labor	B-2
Wang v. Gold Mantis Construction Decoration, LLC	1:18-cv-00030	N.M.I.	labor	B-2

Adem v. Queen of Sheba, LLC	1:16-cv-00078	N.D.Ind.	labor	DV
Alabado v. French Concepts, Inc.	2:15-cv-02830	C.D.Cal.	labor	E-2
Reabroy v. Typhoon!, Inc.	3:08-cv-01178	D.Or., 9th Circuit	labor	E-2
Treemeth v. Typhoon!, Inc.	3:12-cv-00882	D.Or.	labor	E-2
Baricuatro v. Industrial Personnel and Management Services, Inc.	2:11-cv-02777	E.D.La.	labor	E-2 or B-1/ OCS
Baldia v. RN Express Staffing Registry, LLC	1:19-cv-11268	S.D.N.Y.	labor	EB-1/EB-2/EB-3
New York State Nurses Association v. Albany Medical Center	1:19-cv-01265	N.D.N.Y.	labor	EB-1/EB-2/EB-3
Salem v. Michigan State University	1:19-cv-00220	W.D.Mich.	labor	F-1
Sun v. Xu	2:19-cv-02242	C.D.Ill.	labor/sex	F-1
Baoanan v. Baja	1:08-cv-05692	S.D.N.Y.	labor	G-5
Barjo v. Cherian	8:18-cv-01587	D.Md.	labor	G-5
Carazani v. Zegarra	1:12-cv-00107	D.D.C.	labor	G-5
Chere v. Taye	2:04-cv-06264	D.N.J.	labor	G-5
Cruz v. Maypa	1:13-cv-00862	E.D.Va.	labor	G-5
Doe v. Amal	1:12-cv-1359	E.D.Va.	labor	G-5
Doe v. Zinsou	1:19-cv-07025	S.D.N.Y.	labor	G-5
Elat v. Ngoubene	8:11-cv-2931	D.Md.	labor	G-5
Kiwanuka v. Bakilana	1:10-cv-01336	D.D.C.	labor	G-5
Laamime v. Abouzaid	1:13-cv-00793	E.D.Va.	labor	G-5
Nabong v. Paddayuman	1:17-cv-00400	D.D.C.	labor	G-5
Ouedraogo v. Bonkougou	1:15-cv-01345	S.D.N.Y.	labor	G-5
Rios Fun v. Pulgar	2:13-cv-03679	D.N.J.	labor	G-5
Sakala v. Milunga	8:16-cv-00790	D.Md.	labor	G-5
Sulaiman v. Laram	1:16-cv-08182	S.D.N.Y.	labor	G-5
Tamang v. Mehra	1:17-cv-00370	E.D. Va.	labor	G-5
Access Therapies v. Mendoza	1:13-cv-01317	S.D.Ind.	labor	H-1B
Agbo v. MCB Clinical Research Centers	1:19-cv-02064	D.Colo.	labor	H-1B
Aguirre v. Best Care Agency, Inc.	2:10-cv-5914	E.D.N.Y.	labor	H-1B
Amerineni v. Maruthi Technologies, LLC	3:11-cv-03548	N.D.Tex.	labor	H-1B

Bernal v. Rana	1:15-cv-00889	S.D.N.Y.	labor	H-1B
Calumba v. Massey	1:13-cv-08936	S.D.N.Y.	labor	H-1B
Cruz v. Management Health Systems, LLC	9:19-cv-81601	S.D.Fla.	labor	H-1B
Delos Reyes v. Abundant Nursing	1:19-cv-02596	E.D.N.Y.	labor	H-1B
Guan v. Ran	1:17-cv-00332	E.D.Va.	labor	H-1B
Javier v. Beck	1:13-cv-02926	S.D.N.Y.	labor	H-1B
Macias v. Monterrey Concrete	3:19-cv-00830	E.D.Va.	labor	H-1B
Magbojos v. Grandison Management	1:18-cv-03520	E.D.N.Y.	labor	H-1B
Mallannagari v. GSS America, Inc.	1:09-cv-1352	N.D.Ill.	labor	H-1B
Mallela v. Cogent Infotech Corp.	2:19-cv-01658	W.D.Pa.	labor	H-1B
Mojsilovic v. University of Oklahoma	5:14-cv-00886	W.D.Ok.	labor	H-1B
Nunag-Tanedo v. East Baton Rouge Parish School Board	8:10-cv-01172	C.D.Cal.	labor	H-1B
Panwar v. Access Therapies, Inc.	1:12-cv-00619	S.D.Ind.	labor	H-1B
Ramakapeta v. Marlabs	2:10-cv-04650	D.N.J.	labor	H-1B
Saiyed v. Archon	2:14-cv-06862 (transferred to New Jersey - 2:16-cv-09530)	E.D.N.Y. (transferred to D.N.J.)	labor	H-1B
Saraswat v. Jayaraman et al	1:15-cv-04680	E.D.N.Y.	labor	H-1B
Singh v. Ling Technologies	1:11-cv-00844	E.D.Va.	labor	H-1B
Tuburan v. Massey	1:12-cv-08561	S.D.N.Y.	labor	H-1B
Ajiatas-Solval v. Cisco	1:14-cv-00197	M.D.Ga.	labor	H-2A
Alcaraz v. RC Orchards LLC	1:19-cv-03192	E.D.Wash.	labor	H-2A
Alvarado-Flores v. Garcia-Pineda	5:17-cv-00369	E.D.N.C.	labor	H-2A
Antonio-Morales v. Bimbos Best Produce, Inc.	2:08-cv-05105	E.D.La.	labor	H-2A
Aquino v. Peroulis	1:13-cv-00418	D.Colo.	labor	H-2A
Arauco-Lapo v. Wentz	2:18-cv-00095	D.Or.	labor	H-2A
Arreguin v. Sanchez	2:18-cv-00133	S.D.Ga.	labor	H-2A
Asanok v. Million Express Manpower, Inc.	5:07-cv-00048	E.D.N.C.	labor	H-2A
Barriga-Bermudez v. Gutierrez-Tapia	8:15-cv-01171	M.D.Fla.	labor	H-2A
Bernal v. Coleman	1:18-cv-00088	W.D.Ky.	labor	H-2A

Caballero v. All Nation Staffing, LLC	0:14-cv-61497	S.D.Fla.	labor	H-2A
Camayo v. Peroulis and Sons Sheep, Inc.	1:10-cv-00772 (consolidated with 1: 11-cv-01132)	D.Colo.	labor	H-2A
Catalan v. Vermillion	1:06-cv-01043	D.Colo.	labor	H-2A
Cortez-Romero v. Corp	2:20-cv-014058	S.D.Fla.	labor	H-2A
Cruz-Cruz v. McKenzie Farms	5:15-cv-00157	E.D.Ky.	labor	H-2A
Cuarenta-Ramos v. Odom	4:09-cv-368	E.D.Ark.	labor	H-2A
Garcia et al v. Stemilt Ag Services LLC	2:20-cv-00254	E.D.Wash.	labor	H-2A
Gonzalez Leiva v. Clute	4:19-cv-00087	N.D.Ind.	labor	H-2A
Gutierrez-Morales v. Planck	5:15-cv-00158	E.D.Ky.	labor	H-2A
Huerta v. L.T.West, Inc.	6:11-cv-01589	W.D.La.	labor	H-2A
Janse van Rensburg et al v. Hood et al	3:19-cv-00008	E.D.Ark.	labor	H-2A
Luna-Duarte v. Mejia	1:16-cv-00108	W.D.N.C.	labor	H-2A
Murray v. Altendorf Transport	2:10-cv-00103	D.N.D.	labor	H-2A
Ovando v. Barajas	5:19-cv-00464	N.D.Fla.	labor	H-2A
Perez v. Huerta Farms, Inc.	1:18-cv-16255	D.N.J.	labor	H-2A
Reyes-Trujillo et al v. Four Star Greenhouse, Inc. et al	5:20-cv-11692	E.D.Mich.	labor	H-2A
Rosas v. Sarbanand Farms	2:18-cv-00112	W.D. Wash.	labor	H-2A
Ruiz v. Fernandez	2:11-cv-03088	E.D.Wash.	labor	H-2A
Sanchez v. Williams	5:10-cv-0117	E.D.Ky.	labor	H-2A
Suarez v. Chavez	2:16-cv-04785	C.D.Cal.	labor	H-2A
Trevino-Villarreal v. Garcia	6:08-cv-00031	N.D.Tex.	labor	H-2A
West et al v. Butikofer	2:19-cv-01039	N.D.Iowa	labor	H-2A
Zevallos v. Stamatakis	2:17-cv-00253	D.Utah	labor	H-2A
Abraham v. Singh	2:04-cv-00044	E.D.La.	labor	H-2B
Achari v. Signal International, LLC	2:13-cv-06218	E.D.La.	labor	H-2B
Adia v. Grandeur Management, Inc.	1:17-cv-09349	S.D.N.Y.	labor	H-2B
Aguilar v. Imperial Nurseries	3:07-cv-193	D.Conn.	labor	H-2B
Alarcon v. Holloway	2:15-cv-03095	E.D.N.Y.	labor	H-2B
Alvarado v. Skelton	3:16-cv-03030	M.D.Tenn.	labor	H-2B
Antigo v. Lombardi	1:11-cv-408	S.D.Miss.	labor	H-2B

Bello v. Villanueva	9:19-cv-80708	S.D.Fla.	labor	H-2B
Belvis v. Colamussi	2:16-cv-00544	E.D.N.Y.	labor	H-2B
Briones v. JNS Construction Services, LLC	1:08-cv-00461	D.Colo.	labor	H-2B
Camarena v. B & H Farm	4:19-cv-00074	S.D.Ind.	labor	H-2B
Carillo v. Colamussi	2:17-cv-04926	E.D.N.Y.	labor	H-2B
Casilao v. Hotelmacher	5:17-cv-00800	W.D. Okla.	labor	H-2B
Castro v. Midwest Rides	0:16-cv-00014	D.Minn.	labor	H-2B
Castillo Chaidez v. KAH Transportes, et. al.	2:18-cv-01837	E.D.Pa.	labor	H-2B
David v. Signal International, LLC	2:08-cv-01220	E.D.La.	labor	H-2B
Delgado v. Villanueva	1:12-cv-03113 (later 1: 13-cv-22259)	S.D.N.Y. (later S.D. Fla.)	labor	H-2B
Does v. Pure Forest, LLC	2:14-cv-00879	E.D.Cal.	labor	H-2B
Fernandez-Lopez et al v. Hernandez et al	1:19-cv-00782	W.D.Tex.	labor	H-2B
Flores v. Jimenez	1:19-cv-02767	N.D.Ill.	labor	H-2B
Gomez-Argueta v. Reed	7:09-cv-02027	N.D.Ala.	labor	H-2B
Guevara-Morales v. Sanchez Forestry	1:19-cv-00052	E.D.Tex.	labor	H-2B
Jimenez v. Vanderbilt	3:11-cv-00276	M.D.Tenn.	labor	H-2B
Joseph v. Signal International, LLC	1:13-cv-00324	E.D.Tex.	labor	H-2B
Kambala v. Signal International, LLC	1:13-cv-00498	E.D.Tex.	labor	H-2B
Ladra v. Rubias	1:15-cv-04231	S.D.N.Y.	labor	H-2B
Lipa v. Villanueva	1:18-cv-24354	S.D.Fla.	labor	H-2B
Magnifico v. Villanueva	9:10-cv-80771	S.D.Fla.	labor	H-2B
Marimuthu v. Signal International, LLC	1:13-cv-00499	E.D.Tex.	labor	H-2B
Meganathan v. Signal International, LLC	1:13-cv-00497	E.D.Tex.	labor	H-2B
Mendez Perez v. CJR Framing, Inc.	3:19-cv-01429	S.D.Tex.	labor	H-2B
Morales-Ramirez v. International Personnel Resources, Inc.	2:10-cv-7031	E.D.Pa.	labor	H-2B
Ramos-Madrugal v. Mendiola Forestry Service, LLC	1:10-cv-01078	W.D.Ark.	labor	H-2B
Samuel v. Signal International, LLC	1:13-cv-00323	E.D.Tex.	labor	H-2B
Sarmiento v. The Club	9:11-cv-81388	S.D.Fla.	labor	H-2B
Vazquez v. Karageorgis	1:10-cv-04839	E.D.N.Y.	labor	H-2B
Velasquez Gomez v. Nunez Pine Straw, Inc.	2:16-cv-00030	N.D.Ga.	labor	H-2B

Mistry v. Udwadia	5:12-cv-00034	W.D.Ok.	labor	H-4
Descanzo v. Grand America Hotel & Resorts	2:19-cv-00443	D.Utah	labor	J-1
Francis et al. v. Apex USA Inc. et al.	5:18-cv-00583	D. Okla.	labor	J-1
Chy v. Lim	2:17-cv-04325	C.D.Cal.	labor	J-1
Cuenca-Vidarte et al. vs. Samuel et al.	8:20-cv-01885	D.Md.	labor	J-1
Does v. Gonikman	2:13-cv-14057	E.D.Mich.	labor	J-1
Scurtu v. International Student Exchange	1:07-cv-410	S.D.Ala.	labor	J-1
Martinez v. Calimlim	2:08-cv-00810	E.D.Wis.	labor	Multi-entry
Shukla v. Sharma	1:07-cv-2972	E.D.N.Y.	labor	R-1
Martinez-Rodriguez v. Giles	1:17-cv-00001	D.Id.	labor	TN
Castellanos v. Worldwide Distribution Systems USA, LLC	2:14-cv-12609	E.D.Mich.	labor	TN
Carmen v. Health Carousel, LLC	1:20-cv-00313	S.D.Oh.	labor	type unknown
Doe v. Phillips	2:20-cv-00019	N.D.W.Va.	labor	type unknown
Edmonson v. Raniere	1:20-cv-00485	E. D. N. Y.	labor	type unknown
Gonzales v. United Staffing Registry, Inc.	1:19-cv-06616	E.D.N.Y.	labor	type unknown
Lo v. Management Health Systems, Inc.	0:20-cv-61319	S.D.Fla.	labor	type unknown
Nowak v. United Staffing Registry, Inc.	1:19-cv-06455	E. D. N. Y.	labor	type unknown
Updated 7/22/2020				