



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 (2009-2018)

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. Tolan	1:11-cr-00526	E.D. Va.	labor	A-3
US v. Penzato et al.	3:12-cr-00089	N.D. Cal.	labor	A-3
US v. Homoud et al.	5:15-cr-00391	W.D. Tex.	labor	A-3
US v. Terechina	2:10-cr-00088	S.D. Oh.	labor	B-1
US v. Edwards et al.	8:11-cr-00316	D. Md.	labor	B-1
US v. Alvarado McTague et al.	5:14-cr-00055	W.D. Va.	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. Petrohai	1:10-cr-00693	E.D.N.Y.	labor	B-1/B-2
US v. Kartan et al.	2:16-cr-00217	E.D. Cal.	labor	B-1/B-2
US v. Huang	0:16-cr-00263	D. Minn.	labor	B-1/B-2
US v. Mulembwe	4:17-cr-00191	E.D. Tex.	labor	B-1/B-2
US v. Yannai et al.	1:10-cr-00594	E.D.N.Y.	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. Alstatt et al.	8:10-cr-00420	D. Neb.	labor	DV
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

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Case Name	Docket Number	Jurisdiction	Alleged Trafficking Type	Visa Type
US v. Sou	1:09-cr-00345	D. Haw.	labor	H-2A
US v. Ceneus	1:10-cr-00027	N.D. Fla.	labor	H-2A
US v. Orian	1:10-cr-00576	D. Haw.	labor	H-2A
US v. Cabrera et al.	0:15-cr-00190	D. Minn.	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

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Federal Civil Trafficking Cases Involving Legal Visas (2003-2018)

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

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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
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. Mzenji	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

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Case Name	Docket Number	Jurisdiction	Alleged Trafficking Type	Visa Type
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
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
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
Llanto v. Esmail	1:17-cv-01159	E.D.N.Y.	labor	B-1

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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
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
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
Mbome v. Njie	4:18-cv-00597	N.D.Tex.	labor	B-1/B-2
Sulastri v. Halsey	2:12-cv-3538	E.D.N.Y.	labor	B-1/B-2
Cruz v. Toliver	5:04-cv-231	W.D.Ky.	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

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Case Name	Docket Number	Jurisdiction	Alleged Trafficking Type	Visa Type
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
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
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

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Case Name	Docket Number	Jurisdiction	Alleged Trafficking Type	Visa Type
Doe v. Amal	1:12-cv-1359	E.D.Va.	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
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

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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
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
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
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

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Case Name	Docket Number	Jurisdiction	Alleged Trafficking Type	Visa Type
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
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
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

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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
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
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
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
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

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Case Name	Docket Number	Jurisdiction	Alleged Trafficking Type	Visa Type
Trevino-Villarreal v. Garcia	6:08-cv-00031	N.D.Tex.	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
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
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

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Case Name	Docket Number	Jurisdiction	Alleged Trafficking Type	Visa Type
Castro v. Midwest Rides	0:16-cv-00014	D.Minn.	labor	H-2B
Chaidez v. Hemphill	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
Gomez-Argueta v. Reed	7:09-cv-02027	N.D.Ala.	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
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

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Morales-Ramirez v. International Personnel Resources, Inc.	2:10-cv-7031	E.D.Pa.	labor	H-2B
Ramos-Madrigal 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
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
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

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Case Name	Docket Number	Jurisdiction	Alleged Trafficking Type	Visa Type
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

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About The Human Trafficking Legal Center

The Human Trafficking Legal Center is a not-for-profit, national legal clearinghouse for survivors of human trafficking. The Human Trafficking Legal Center creates a bridge between trafficking survivors and highly-skilled pro bono legal representation. Standing with trafficking survivors, the Center partners with pro bono law firms nationwide to hold traffickers accountable for their crimes. Pro bono litigators trained by the Human Trafficking Legal Center win compensation for survivors. With these recoveries, trafficking survivors can reclaim their lives. Since 2012, the Human Trafficking Legal Center has trained more than 3,400 pro bono attorneys and placed more than 280 trafficking-related matters at top law firms.

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