

ERIK NASARENKO District Attorney

NEWS RELEASE

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Conspirators in Illicit Massage Business and Money Laundering Ring Sentenced

LOL

22-091

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VENTURA, California – District Attorney Erik Nasarenko announced today that Olga Paredes (DOB 09/01/73), of Colton, and seven other individuals pled guilty to crimes involving pimping, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and accessory in connection to an illicit massage business ring. Aside from Paredes, the following individuals were also convicted in this investigation: Jaime Vasquez (DOB 08/04/87), of Colton; Olga Marlene Ramirez (DOB 09/23/97), of Colton; Hector Ramos Prado (DOB 03/04/93), of Ontario; Bruce Eulises Pineda (DOB 12/28/02), of San Diego; Ismael Zitlahua Reyes (DOB 05/15/58), of Ontario; and Flor de Maria Evora (DOB 05/04/94), of West Covina.

In September 2020, the Ventura County Human Trafficking Task Force located online commercial sex advertisements for Royal Spa in Oxnard. As the investigation unfolded, detectives determined that Paredes and her co-conspirators oversaw six brothels disguised as legitimate businesses. The following brothels were identified: Royal Spa in Oxnard, Gem's Skincare in Colton, Cosmopolitan Spa in Palm Springs, Seven Spa in Monterey Park, Orchid's Skincare in San Bernardino, and Sunset Skincare in Port Hueneme. As a result of the investigation, detectives identified several adult victims of sexual exploitation, some of whom were brought from Tijuana to Los Angeles and Ventura Counties.

Paredes pled guilty to four counts of felony pimping and was sentenced by Judge Bruce Young on July 21, 2022, to four years state prison. Her nephew, Vasquez, pled guilty to three counts of felony conspiracy to commit money laundering and was sentenced on July 13, 2022, to six months Ventura County Jail and two years formal probation. Ramirez pled to a felony count of accessory after the fact and was sentenced to a custody sanction and two years formal probation. The managers of the brothels, Prado, Pineda, and Reyes, pled guilty to felony conspiracy to commit pimping and were each sentenced to a custody sanction and two years formal probation.

Evora pled guilty to a felony count of accessory after the fact and will be sentenced on August 15, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. in courtroom 23 of the Ventura County Superior Court. An additional co-conspirator, Carlos Paredes (DOB 11/26/78), of West Covina, Olga Paredes's brother, remains outstanding on a \$200,000 warrant.

Members of the Ventura County Human Trafficking Task Force worked to investigate this case, prosecute the offenders, and support the involved trafficking victims. The Ventura County Human Trafficking Task Force is a multidisciplinary team that partners local law enforcement agencies and victim service providers with investigative, enforcement, and regulatory agencies and resources to combat human trafficking in Ventura County.

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The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is the public prosecutor for the county's 850,000 residents. The office employs approximately 290 employees including attorneys, investigators, victim advocates, and professional support staff who strive to seek justice, ensure public safety, and protect the rights of crime victims.