



IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC



Operation Underground Railroad was founded in December 2013 and was first operational in early 2014. One of the first international countries O.U.R. started working in was the Dominican Republic.

O.U.R. received a request from authorities in the Dominican Republic in August 2014 to come help them combat human trafficking and exploitation in their country. They asked for our team to begin a case in Boca Chica.

During the first few days on the ground, the O.U.R. Ops Team was able to identify several potential traffickers. Based off evidence found, the US Embassy (HSI) and the Dominican National Police moved forward.

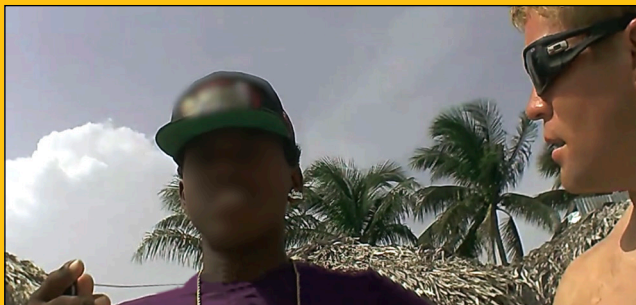
The “party” was scheduled for August 14th. Upon arriving at the home, the traffickers negotiated prices with O.U.R. Operators and undercover Dominican Republic authorities.

The survivors were placed in the care of the Dominican government and International Justice Mission (IJM).

[“Luciana” was one of the survivors from the Operation who has been working with IJM. You can read about her story **HERE**.](#)

WHY DOES O.U.R. TAKE CAMERAS ON OPERATIONS?

First and foremost, the footage captured by hidden cameras on operations provides vital evidence for the prosecution. At the end of the operation, O.U.R. is able to provide a hard drive of the entire investigation to the law enforcement teams we are working with. For Operation Mundo Nuevo, we shared the footage with Dominican law enforcement, and HSI in the U.S. Embassy. Secondly, appropriate footage can sometimes be carefully pulled to create videos to help educate the public and raise awareness about the problem of child exploitation and human trafficking.



O.U.R. Founder, Tim Ballard speaking with a potential trafficker in the Dominican Republic



Suspected trafficker speaking with an undercover O.U.R. Operator in a car planning the party.

OPERATION MUNDO NUEVO

Date: August 2014

Location: Boca Chica, Dominican Republic

Agencies & NGOs involved:

Operation Underground Railroad (O.U.R.)

International Justice Mission (IJM)

Breaking Chains

CONANI- Child Welfare Office

Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)

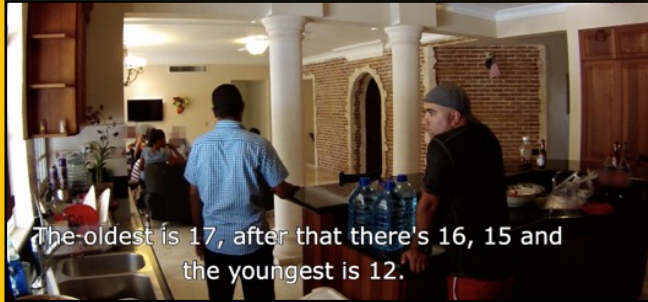
Dominican Republic Anti-Human Trafficking Unit

Arrested: 7 # Rescued: 26

“During the last seven years, O.U.R. has done very important and valuable work to rescue sexually exploited boys, girls, and adolescents in our country. O.U.R. has always worked in accordance with our laws and by invitation from us. O.U.R. never once acted as a vigilante group. We hope to be able to continue our important work with O.U.R.”

-Coronel F.A. Perez
Chief of the Dominican Republic
Anti-Human Trafficking Police Unit.

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The oldest is 17, after that there's 16, 15 and the youngest is 12.

Negotiations between the O.U.R. Ops Team, Undercover officials and the traffickers took place in the house.



The traffickers and O.U.R. Ops Team were arrested at the scene.

DETAILS ABOUT THE SENTENCES THAT TOOK PLACE:

<https://ciudadoriental.com/condenados-grupo-explotacion-sexual-menores/>

3 years to Fiorelis and Emmi

5 years to Edward, Ana Leidi, and Darlin

10 years were given to Fidel and Frenacia

Operation Mundo Nuevo was the beginning of O.U.R.'s work in the Dominican Republic. Because of the success of this operation, other doors were opened and we have been able to support our partners in the Dominican Republic.

O.U.R. has continued working in the Dominican Republic since this initial operation. We have met and worked with many survivors of human trafficking in this country in many diverse ways. O.U.R. strives to provide personalized care to each survivor we work with. Here is a list of some of the ways we have supported survivors in the Dominican Republic, including survivors that we helped bring to freedom, and survivors who we met later in their journey.

- English courses
- Access to extensive medical care
- Vocational training
- Prenatal care
- Scholarships
- Legal services for missing personal documents
- Support for sustainable farming (Currently we support a bunny farm that benefits 150 children)
- Repatriation, and then vocational training in their home countries

“Since the founding of Operation Underground Railroad in late 2013, the Dominican Republic has been one of our closest partners. We have been fortunate to launch multiple child rescue operations there at the invitation of host country officials, provide investigative training to their committed law enforcement officers and prosecutors, and support a number of aftercare centers on the island. It was thanks to that initial Boca Chica operation in August 2014 that we have had so much success in these ensuing years.”

- O.U.R. Operations Team Leader

TIMELINE

August 2014:
Operation Mundo Nuevo

March 2015:
Operation Mundo Nuevo II

May 2016:
Operation Fortuna

July 2017:
Operation Capotillo

October 2017:
Operation Tiburon

October 2017:
Operation Red Sash

January 2018:
Operation “MIL”agro

February 2018:
Operation Retrieve

June 2019:
Aftercare Dominican Republic Prevention

April 2020:
Operation Ice Arrow

November 2020:
Operation Mundo Nuevo III
6 Arrested and 26 Rescued

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

OVER 35 ARRESTS
125 RESCUES