



**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
COUNTY OF KERN**

CIVIC CENTER JUSTICE BUILDING
1215 TRUXTUN AVENUE
BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93301
(661) 868-2340, FAX: (661) 868-2700

JOSEPH A. KINZEL
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

ANDREA S. KOHLER
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

CYNTHIA J. ZIMMER
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

November 22, 2022

MEDIA ADVISORY

CONTACT:
DDA Tyson McCoy
(661) 868-2775

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APPROVED BY: CJZ
DA Press Release #22-58

Guilty Verdicts Returned In Child Human Trafficking Trial of Repeat Trafficker: Kajuan Richardson, Kern County Superior Court Case BF188992A

Bakersfield -- Kern County District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer announced a significant trial conviction today in a human trafficking of a minor case. In a case prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Tyson McCoy, a Kern County jury found Defendant Kajuan Richardson guilty of three counts of human trafficking of a minor, pimping, unlawful possession of a firearm, possession for sale of Cannabis, and possession of obscene matter of a minor. The jury announced its verdict on November 21, 2022. The Court also found true the allegation the defendant had suffered a prior human trafficking conviction.

From November 2021 to February 2022, defendant Kajuan Richardson operated an illegal drug business where he sold drugs to individuals throughout Bakersfield, including minors at a local high school. Richardson utilized the popular online social media site, Snapchat, to reach buyers, including children. The drug business was among the tactics that Richardson used to lure minors into sex trafficking. Richardson then used internet websites to sell his victims online and in local motels. One of the minor victims testified that she resorted to taking drugs to cope with having to have sex with the sex buyers. The minor victims ranged in age from 14 to 17 years old. Richardson was also found guilty of pimping a 20-year-old adult victim, being a felon in possession of a firearm, marijuana sales, and being in possession of matter depicting a minor engaged in sexual conduct.

In 2017, Richardson was convicted in Orange County on human trafficking charges and sentenced to eight years state prison. Richardson was released on Post Release Community Supervision from the California Department of Corrections in October of 2020.

In October 2021, Detective Meghan Hylton-Reed with the Kern County Sheriff's Office received information from Kern High School District Officer Ryan Calderon regarding a student at a local high school. Detective Reed's investigation uncovered the defendant's illicit drug business and sex trafficking of multiple victims. The Kern County Sheriff's Office led the investigation and arrested Richardson in February of this year.

District Attorney Cynthia Zimmer commented on the conviction, stating that “Human traffickers prey on women and children, create misery and exploit people for money gain. Richardson, who already had been caught and convicted on a previous trafficking case, targeted children to be sexually abused and sold for profit. We will not allow our children to be taken into sexual slavery, and traffickers will face the harshest penalties the law provides for these atrocious crimes.”

Sentencing is set for December 16, 2022 in Department 7 of the Kern County Superior Court before Judge Brian McNamara, where Richardson will face a sentence of up to 33 years in prison.

Kajuan Richardson:

