



## EMANCIPATION PROJECT

The Emancipation Project is a nonprofit organization with federal tax exempt status. We are liberating minors from abuse by:

- Advocating for recognition and enforcement of human rights for juveniles who are abducted, confined, and forced into mental and emotional reprogramming at private residential facilities
- Encouraging parents, judges, and child welfare professionals to use safe and effective alternatives for the education and treatment of teenagers with difficulties at home or school
- Developing a system of government regulation and fostering community awareness to prevent and prosecute child abuse by private residential facilities
- Helping residents of facilities to enforce their rights and enabling survivors to make abductors and abusers accountable for the emotional and physical harms they have caused

---

**Visit our website to learn more about the  
*Forgotten Victims: Kids in Captivity.***

[www.emancipationproject.org](http://www.emancipationproject.org)

Please make a tax-deductible donation to help us accomplish our mission. Or become a volunteer. Help us spread the word about this national scandal.

State and local government agencies are failing these children. They need intervention of the federal government. Give us suggestions as to how we can get federal law enforcement agencies to protect these children from exploitation, free them from captivity, and make their abusers accountable.

---

Thomas F. Coleman, Executive Director  
Nora J. Baladerian, Ph.D., President

Emancipation Project · Post Office Box 11030, Glendale, CA 91226  
(323) 210-9025 · Fax (323) 210-1504 · [emancipationproject@earthlink.net](mailto:emancipationproject@earthlink.net)

# Forgotten Victims: *Kids in Captivity*



**HELP ME.**

Each year thousands of teens and pre-teens are forcibly removed from their homes by distraught parents and banished to months or years of confinement in unlicensed residential facilities in remote rural areas of the United States.

Some are sent to facilities in foreign nations and are often transported there without a visa or proper travel credentials.

Many minors are abducted by unlicensed "special transportation services" and are taken thousands of miles away to be mentally reprogrammed at so-called "boarding schools" or distorted "behavior modification" programs which charge the parents \$50,000 or more per year.

Many of these businesses lure the parents with false advertising and fraudulent claims. Usually the parents are required to sign a contract purporting to turn over total parental authority to the residential facility.

About 400 businesses confine nearly 14,000 troubled teenagers and generate \$1 billion in annual revenues.

Despite repeated complaints by juveniles of abuse, and complaints by parents of fraud, there is virtually no regulation of this industry by federal, state, or local governments. Official intervention is rare.

---

## **U.S. Attorney General Gonzales Sees Federal Role in Oversight of Teen Residential Facilities**

*Salt Lake Tribune, Feb. 11, 2005*



President Bush's new attorney general, Alberto Gonzales, says the Justice Department may take a more active role in oversight of boot camp programs for troubled teens.

In his written responses to questions during his confirmation process, Gonzales said the Justice Department would work to engage states and directors of private facilities to ensure children are protected.

If cases of inappropriate or abusive practices cannot be resolved, they may

be referred to the Civil Rights or Criminal divisions at the department for action, Gonzales said.

# **Areas for Federal Intervention:**

## **Mail Fraud**

to extract money from unsuspecting parents

## **Traumatic Abductions**

and transporting minors across state lines

## **Foreign Travel**

without proper passports for the minors

## **Trafficking in Minors**

to exploit them and their parents

## **Child Labor**

at the facilities in violation of federal labor laws

## **Obstruction of Justice**

by institutionalizing child abuse victims to silence them

## **Conspiracy**

to violate the civil rights of minors

## **Constitutional Rights Violations**

by failure of state agencies to protect the minors