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Six Arrested Following Human-Trafficking Investigation of Illicit Massage Businesses in Northwest Arkansas

Griffin: 'This is the largest criminal-investigation operation ever executed by the Office of the Attorney General'

FAYETTEVILLE – Attorney General Tim Griffin issued the following statement announcing the arrest of six individuals after his office completed a year-long human-trafficking investigation of illicit massage businesses culminating in a multi-agency operation on October 6:

"Our year-long human-trafficking investigation into a network of illicit massage businesses in Northwest Arkansas has resulted in six arrests. On October 6, my Special Investigations Division (SID) led a coordinated operation involving 16 other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and four victim-services groups. Five suspects—Xiao Ping Wei, Fang Zhou, Yiping Li, Jianyu Wen, and Matthew Miller—were arrested during that operation. A sixth suspect, Xiufen Zhou, was arrested by the U.S. Marshals Service in Monterey Park, California, on November 17. A seventh suspect, Jianmei Qin, remains at large and is believed to have fled to China through Mexico. Qin is currently on the U.S. Department of Labor Inspector General's Most Wanted List.

"Each of the six arrested has been charged with engaging in a continuing criminal gang, organization, or enterprise in the first degree, an A-felony; criminal use of property or laundering criminal proceeds, a C-felony; and promoting prostitution in the second degree, a D-felony.

“The results of this investigation match a pattern we have seen since I prioritized investigating illicit massage businesses after being sworn in as Attorney General. Criminal enterprises with close ties to mainland China have set up networks of businesses throughout not just Arkansas, but the entire country. They lure women from China to the United States on the promise of work opportunities, but what greets the women when they get here is a life of sex slavery.

“Make no mistake, patronizing these businesses is not harmless. Men who spend their money for sexual services at these establishments are supporting criminal enterprises that victimize women who came to America in an attempt to provide for themselves and their families.

“These cases are incredibly difficult to investigate, and I am extremely proud of the work done by SID on this case. This is the largest criminal-investigation operation ever executed by the Office of the Attorney General. I am also grateful for the collaboration of our law enforcement partners and victim services groups, without which this operation would not have been possible. The level of coordination, planning, and execution that went into this speaks to the high level of professionalism that exists in each agency.”

SID opened the investigation on October 6, 2025, after receiving information about suspected criminal activity at multiple massage businesses in Northwest Arkansas. On January 15, 2026, SID and the Fayetteville Police Department executed search warrants at Crystal Massage and Starry Massage in Fayetteville. Evidence gathered from those locations indicated there was a broader network of illicit massage businesses operating in Northwest Arkansas.

On October 6, 2026, exactly one year since the investigation began, SID led an operation involving 16 other law enforcement agencies in executing search warrants at four illicit massage businesses and one residence. The businesses were Diamond Spa and OMO Massage in Rogers, Chill Massage in Springdale, and Crystal Massage in Fayetteville, which had reopened after a brief closure following the January execution of search warrants. The residence was in Springdale. Three victims were offered services, and two of them accepted services.

The participating law enforcement agencies in the October 2026 operation were:

- U.S. Department of Labor-Office of the Inspector General
- FBI
- Arkansas State Police
- Arkansas Highway Police
- Fourth Judicial District, Washington County Prosecutor’s Office
- 19th Judicial District-West, Benton County Prosecutor’s Office
- Fayetteville Police Department

- Springdale Police Department
- Rogers Police Department
- Benton County Sheriff's Office
- Washington County Sheriff's Office
- 14th Judicial Drug Task Force
- Little Rock Police Department
- Harrison Police Department
- Siloam Springs Police Department
- Mountain Home Police Department

The victim-services groups were:

- Into the Light
- Freedom Finders
- NWA Sexual Assault Center
- Reach, Medical Forensic Response Team

About Attorney General Tim Griffin

Tim Griffin was sworn in as the 57th Attorney General of Arkansas on January 10, 2023, having previously served as the state's 20th Lieutenant Governor from 2015-2023. From 2011-2015, Griffin served as the 24th representative of Arkansas's Second Congressional District, where he served on the House Committee on Ways and Means, House Armed Services Committee, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, House Committee on Ethics and House Committee on the Judiciary while also serving as a Deputy Whip for the Majority.

Griffin is currently an officer in the Arkansas Army National Guard and holds the rank of colonel. Griffin served as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps for more than 28 years. In 2005, Griffin was mobilized to active duty as an Army prosecutor at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and served with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) in Mosul, Iraq.

His previous assignments include serving as the Commander of the 2d Legal Operations Detachment in New Orleans, Louisiana; the Commander of the 134th Legal Operations Detachment at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and as a Senior Legislative Advisor to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness at the Pentagon. Griffin earned a master's degree in strategic studies as a Distinguished Honor Graduate from the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.

Griffin also served as U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, and Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Political Affairs for President George W. Bush; Special Assistant to Assistant Attorney General Michael Chertoff, Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice; Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of Arkansas; Senior Investigative Counsel, Government Reform and Oversight Committee, U.S. House of Representatives; and Associate Independent Counsel, Office of Independent Counsel David M. Barrett, In re: HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros.

Griffin is a graduate of Magnolia High School, Hendrix College in Conway, and Tulane Law School in New Orleans. He attended graduate school at Oxford University. He is admitted to practice law in Arkansas (active) and Louisiana (inactive). Griffin lives in Little Rock with his wife, Elizabeth, a Camden native, and their three children.

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