

3-25-1992

Peru: More On U.S. National Accused Of Child Trafficking

Erika Harding

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/notisur>

Recommended Citation

Harding, Erika. "Peru: More On U.S. National Accused Of Child Trafficking." (1992). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/notisur/8840>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Latin America Digital Beat (LADB) at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in NotiSur by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact amywinter@unm.edu.

Peru: More On U.S. National Accused Of Child Trafficking

by Erika Harding

Category/Department: General

Published: Wednesday, March 25, 1992

US national Jim Gagel, accused of kidnapping and falsifying documents to sell thousands of babies to foreign couples for large sums of money, has been arrested by Peruvian authorities. According to the US consulate in Lima, the publicity has stalled all pending adoption cases in the country. According to police, Gagel abducted and sold as many as 4,000 children. A computer found in his office was reportedly programmed to falsify documents to speed up the adoption process. Gagel says he is innocent and asserted he was set up because he refused to pay protection money to police officers. The attorney said that at the time of arrest, he was handcuffed, forced to kneel, and repeatedly slapped by an investigator who threatened him with a tire iron. Gagel first arrived in Peru on a Fulbright scholarship in 1989 to lecture Peruvian judges on US law. He stayed on to open a legal practice specialized in arranging adoptions. The attorney said he has arranged 45 adoptions over the last two years, personally earning no more than US\$1,500 from each case. Thus far, only one charge of kidnapping has been filed against Gagel by the government prosecutor. (Source: Associated Press, 03/13/92)

-- End --