

# GEORGIA V. SHARIFI



## Quick Facts

Sex Trafficking Investigation

Sex Offender Registration



Faced  
**20**  
years

Imprisonment

Served  
**4**  
years

Imprisonment

## Case Summary

The following sex trafficking case involves the investigation, arrest and prosecution of two traffickers and a buyer as co-defendants. This case also represents the first known case in the State of Georgia to convict a buyer of sex with a minor under the state human trafficking law. According to a February 27, 2014 Fulton County District Attorney Press Release, Derek Spencer and Kynne Shuler “were arrested on October 20, 2013 following an anonymous tip that under-aged girls were involved in suspicious activity in a hotel room they occupied. Police rescued the victims from the hotel bathtub where they were hiding.” According to the press release, the two 14-year-old victims were runaways when they met Spencer and he offered them a place to stay in his home. Spencer and Shuler then supplied the girls with drugs and alcohol, and arranged for them to engage in commercial sex. The minor victims had to turn any money they received over to Spencer and Shuler. In addition to being forced to perform sex acts with sex buyers, Spencer also had sex with each victim. Hossein Sharifi was arrested in connection with Spencer and Shuler’s sex trafficking operation for paying to have sex with the minor victims and according to the press release, the Fulton County District Attorney’s Office worked closely with the FBI’s MATCH Task Force in order to “identify Defendant Sharifi and bring him to justice.”

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## Prosecution

All three defendants were prosecuted in Fulton County Court as co-defendants and were charged with similar offenses. Hossein Sharifi was charged with two counts of trafficking of persons for labor or sexual servitude, two counts of pandering, and two counts of statutory rape. Kynne Shuler and Derek Spencer were charged with various counts including trafficking of persons for labor or sexual servitude, contributing to the delinquency of a minor, pimping, and pandering. Kynne Shuler was also charged with sexual exploitation of a minor and Derek Spencer was also charged with statutory rape, aggravated child molestation, and aggravated assault.

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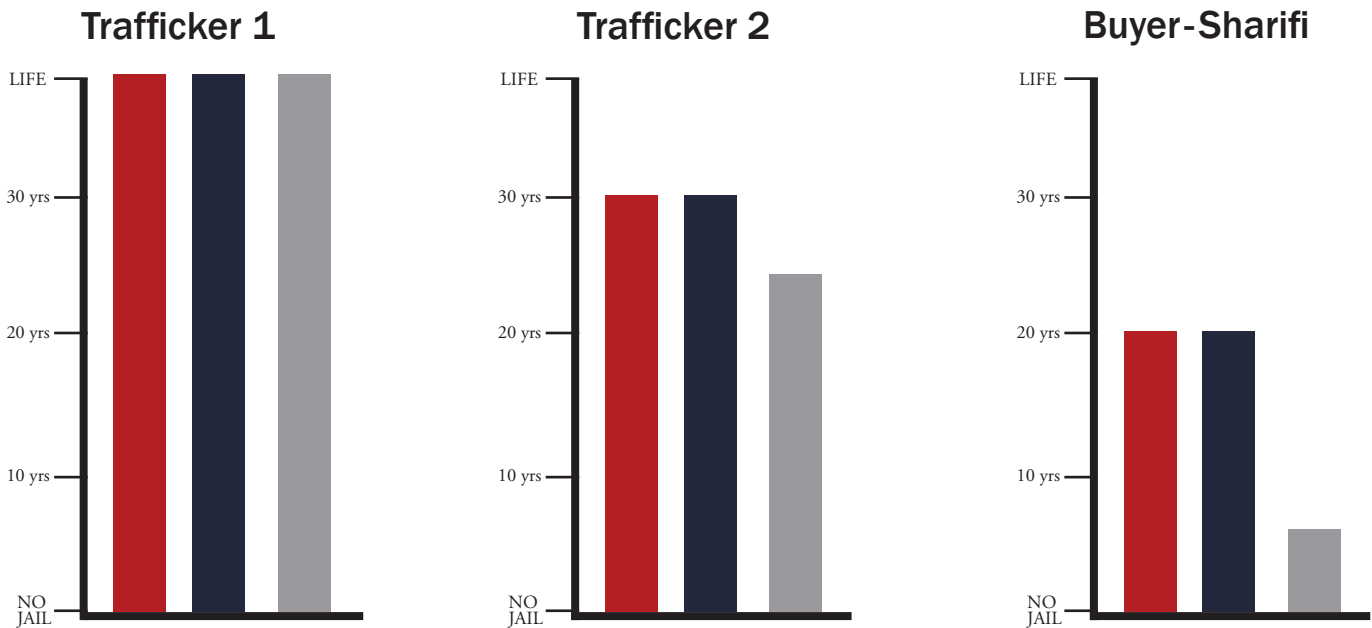
# Prosecution, con't...

Sharifi ultimately pled guilty to human trafficking, pandering, statutory rape and child molestation. Sharifi's co-defendant, Kynne Shuler also entered a guilty plea and was sentenced on several counts including trafficking of persons and sexual exploitation of a minor. Spencer proceeded to trial and was found guilty on all counts except one count of statutory rape, one count of aggravated child molestation and one count of aggravated assault.

## Outcomes

While all three defendants pled guilty to human trafficking charges under state law, their sentences varied dramatically. Spencer was sentenced to life in prison without parole, Shuler was sentenced to 25 years in prison, and Sharifi was sentenced to five years in prison followed by five years of probation and community service.

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Sex Trafficking Defendants	Initial Charge/ Max Penalty	Final Charge/ Max Penalty	Sentencing Outcome
Derek Spencer	Life	Life	Life
Kynne Shuler	30 Years	30 Years	25 Years
Hossein Sharifi	20 Years	20 Years	5 Years

