

Chapter 1: Introduction

This book chronicles, as much as is possible from the information available up through 7 January 2010, the events which led up to the various raids and arrests that took place in Atlanta and in other various parts of the world on 24 and 25 November 2009; the raids and arrests themselves; as well as subsequent related events. Since this book is printed and distributed "on demand," it is intended to revise the text periodically if any significant new information becomes available. The investigations which led up to the four Atlanta arrests, although they were based on premises that are questioned by many of those who study sexually expressed boyhood relationships with older males, were legitimate under the letter of the law. But plans for other raids, which apparently originated in, and were exported by, the Immigrations and Custom Enforcement (ICE) office in Atlanta, were largely - possibly exclusively - based on dubious information, extracted under problematic conditions from extremely questionable sources or perhaps on nothing more than ignorance and malice. Rather than fact and evidence based operations, these latter forays were more "fishing expeditions" and "witch hunts" based on sanctimonious so-called morality, and tended to promulgate mindless hysteria. It is these latter assaults, and their exportation to other parts of the world, which suggested the title of this volume: "Exporting Hysteria: The Atlanta Witch Hunts."

Some of the information that is presented in this book was gathered from Internet news stories; the sources for these news stories are claimed to be ICE operatives, the Atlanta area police, and other local law enforcement agencies. None of these sources can be considered accurate, truthful, or reliable, as apparently deliberate factual errors have been uncovered in the course of researching and writing this book.

Other sources were contacts that were developed over more than a decade of non-judgmental investigating, researching, and publishing about these issues in various scientific journals, as well as in the popular press. As part of this research, several surveys of self-described "Boy-Attracted Pedosexual Males" (BPM) were conducted as the basis for various articles and books; some of these surveys had over 500 respondents. From long-term monitoring of the forum which plays a principal part in this book, as well as several other similar fora as they came and went (there are currently 36 such fora listed on BoyLinks (2009), an understanding and appreciation of the nature and character of various participants was developed; some were thoughtful and consistently respectful of boys as human beings while some were downright disgusting and nauseating, with the majority tending toward the former of these two poles. It is representatives of the former group who have provided most of the non-media information, in addition to direct observation of the forum posts themselves before the forum was forcibly taken down by European authorities.

It must be emphasized that no claim is made to be privy to all the facts about these happenings, or that what is written here is the absolute, complete, and final word. Some - perhaps most - of the details are known only to the principals; prudence dictates that they keep such particulars to themselves. Other information is known only to the investigating law enforcement agencies, who will suppress anything they find unflattering to their image or contradictory to their assertions. Nor is it impossible that some of the unverifiable information that has been

furnished by others is not true. All that can be done here is to try to integrate, present, analyze, and discuss all that is available in the best possible manner.