

## News Toronto & GTA

### Man charged with forcing teenager into prostitution

By **TAMARA CHERRY**, TORONTO SUN

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A young Milton man will face a minimum five years in jail if a judge finds he forced a teenaged girl into prostitution.

The 25-year-old man was charged with human trafficking last week, but on Tuesday, police announced he was additionally charged with human trafficking of a minor — an offence that sprung from a private members bill this summer and carries a minimum five-year sentence upon conviction.

The investigation began about two months ago after Halton Regional Police alleged the man gang raped, kidnapped and forced a teenaged girl into prostitution.

The allegations stretch across Peel and Halton regions, the London area and Niagara Falls, Halton Regional Police Det.-Sgt. Brad Cook said.

Aldain Alando Beckford, 25, of Roper Dr. in Milton was charged with human trafficking, material benefit of human trafficking, kidnapping, aggravated sexual assault, two counts of gang sex assault, living off the avails of a juvenile prostitute, forcible confinement, two counts of weapons dangerous, pointing a firearm and assault with a weapon.

He appeared in court and was remanded into custody pending an Oct. 29 bail hearing.

Police announced Tuesday he was charged with trafficking a minor and possession of a controlled substance.

It is believed his original human trafficking charge will be withdrawn in light of the new charge.

Investigators are still trying to identify more victims and others responsible for the gang sex assault, Cook said Tuesday.

Anyone with information was asked to call police at 905-465-8970 or Crime Stoppers anonymously at 1-800-222-8477.

Winnipeg MP Joy Smith introduced Bill C-268 in January 2009, calling for mandatory five-year minimum sentences for child traffickers. That bill passed through the Senate in June.

Anti-slavery advocates have been critical of the courts for handing down light sentences for human trafficking convictions, the first of which came in 2008 and involved a 15-year-old girl who was trafficked for two and a half years.

In that case, Imani Nakpangi was handed three years for human trafficking and two years for living off the avails of prostitution and possession of counterfeit mark. The second charge involved a 14-year-old girl who was also pimped out by Nakpangi.

The second human trafficking conviction came in November 2008 with Jacques Leonard-St. Vil who, having spent 18 months in pretrial custody, was sentenced to three years probation for forcing a young woman to dole out sex acts in Mississauga strip clubs.