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Mayor, doctors and social workers arrested in scheme to brainwash children into believing they had been abused and sell them

Network fabricated evidence and made children believe they had been abused in adoption scheme worth hundreds of thousands of euros

Alessio Perrone | Friday 28 June 2019 11:15





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parents had abused them, in a scheme to take them away from their families and sell them to foster parents.

Authorities in the central Italian city of Reggio Emilia revealed how a network of carers allegedly used hours of psychotherapy sessions and electroshocks to convince children their parents had sexually abused them and “alter their memory ahead of the trials”, Italy’s [Ansa news agency](#) reports.

They then allegedly sold the children on to friends and acquaintances in a scheme worth hundreds of thousands of euros.


The investigations, codenamed “Angels and Demons”, started in the summer of 2018 after police received a series of reports of wrongdoing that initially proved false.


The 18 arrested include Andrea Carletti, mayor of Bibbiano, a town of about 10,000 near Reggio Emilia, as well as politicians, doctors, social workers and psychologists.

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The network initially fabricated false reports to take children away from disadvantaged families. Then they proceeded to convince the children that


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