



14-YEAR-OLD GIRL RESCUED TWICE IN 3 MONTHS

INDIA: In an exceptional display of commitment, we are now able to report that operatives from The Exodus Road, in collaboration with local law enforcement, rescued a 14-year-old girl from sex trafficking twice in three months.

In the effort now dubbed Operation RELENTLESS, Kamini* was first rescued with three others in February 2018, and turned over to the local Child Welfare Committee (CWC). Just 10 days after her rescue, the CWC, upon being presented false documents, egregiously released the young girl back to a female sex trafficker. Upon learning this, The Exodus Road BRAVO Team began searching for Kamini. After 50 days and much difficulty, she was located in a city approximately 170 kilometers away and rescued for the second time.

Along with Kamini, another 14-year-old, one 16- or 17-year-old, and a 19-year-old eunuch were rescued during Operation RELENTLESS. Three female perpetrators were arrested at the scene.

It has since been reported that Kamini and the other victims were being kept in a private brothel in an affluent part of the city, run by a female politician with powerful influence in the community. Due to this, local police were reluctant to conduct the operation. Kamini was found with the same trafficker who presented the fake documents and took her from the CWC. She told her rescuers that she didn't know her parents, has been with the pimp since childhood, and was forced into prostitution at the age of 12.

The Exodus Road team has raised concern about the release of the 14-year-old victim to the female trafficker with government officials and demanded a Crime Investigation Department (CID) investigation. National media has covered the story, focusing on the egregious release.

The Exodus Road is a nonprofit based in Colorado Springs, Colorado that collaborates with local law enforcement to bring rescue to victims of human trafficking and justice to their perpetrators in India, Thailand, Southeast Asia, Latin America, and the U.S. The Exodus Road has 63 active operatives on its Search & Rescue teams and has facilitated 941 rescues and 410 arrests in the past six years.

**The names of individuals and locations have been changed to protect survivors, operatives, and future operations of The Exodus Road.*

Contact:

Amy Roth Sandrolini

Chief of Staff

The Exodus Road

press@theexodusroad.com