



**The Exodus Road**  
EMPOWERING RESCUE

For Immediate Release

## The Exodus Road Supports Thai Government in Rescue Operation of Three Victims of Sex Trafficking, Arresting Two Pimps

February 25, 2016. *Bangkok, Thailand.* The Anti Trafficking in Persons Division of the Royal Thai Police (ATPD) successfully raided four hotel rooms simultaneously and arrested two pimps who were caught selling four local girls for sexual services at 8 pm on Thursday night. Of the four girls who were involved, three were minors and victims of human trafficking, at ages 16 and 17. The mission involved a team from the Anti Trafficking in Persons Division comprised of an estimated 20 officers, and was led by Police Lieutenant Colonel Jedsada Chomcherngpat. The mission took place under the direction, as well, of Police Major General Kornchai Klayklueng, Commander of Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division and Police Colonel Tarakorn Lertporncharoen, Superintendent of Sub-Division 1, both of the Central Investigation Bureau of the Royal Thai Police. Supporting the operation were four operatives with The Exodus Road, an NGO which supports law enforcement in fighting human trafficking.

The four NGO operatives found the pimps on Wednesday night, Feb. 24, while working in the red-light districts of Bangkok. The two pimps immediately offered minors for sale for sex. After negotiations, the pimps were set to deliver four girls to the operatives the following day. Over the next 24 hours, Police Lt. Col. Jedsada and his team orchestrated a plan to work with The Exodus Road operatives to capture the needed evidence to release the girls and arrest the pimps. Working with the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division to secure the necessary funding for the case, the ATPD arranged the details of the mission. On Thursday evening, the two pimps brought the four girls to the agreed upon hotel. Police gathered the necessary evidence of the sale of the young women, and upon confirming that there were minors present, raided the four hotel rooms. Present in each room was one female officer, along with one male officer. "ATPD did an amazing job on this case. Their officers were efficient and professional, moved quickly to set up the operation, and the female officers showed a lot of care to the girls, too, which I really appreciated. We are honored to support their work any way we can," stated Matt Parker, Founder of The Exodus Road.

The four girls involved were not charged as offenders, but were treated as victims. The two men arrested are in prison and are awaiting trial and sentencing on multiple counts. They have both pled "not guilty" on the charges, and are both facing multiple years in prison, as well as significant fines under Thai law.

Of additional interest, one of the operatives volunteering with The Exodus Road on this mission was military veteran and current country music star, Craig Morgan. "Craig was a huge help to this operation," Joe Hayes, The Exodus Road's Regional Director said, "His operational experience, maturity, and positive attitude were great additions to our team's operations this week. We love utilizing the experience of military veterans in our work here on the ground." Also joining the mission in a volunteer capacity was The Exodus Road board member and advocate Nate Griffin of Grateful Inconvenience, Inc.

The Exodus Road is a nonprofit with offices in SE Asia, India, and Colorado. To date they have assisted police in the rescues of 692 victims of human trafficking, primarily by gathering evidence and providing equipment and training. This operation is a prime example of the value that can come from mutually respectful partnerships between the NGO and police community in the fight for a free world.

### **For More Information:**

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