



# The Exodus Road®

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## **The Exodus Road helps rescue 11 women out of jungle brothel**

**INDIA** — The Exodus Road worked together with India law enforcement to rescue 11 young women out of sex trafficking and arrest three offenders on July 10. The 11 women were being sold in a large hotel-based brothel in rural India.

The Exodus Road's team of national operatives investigated the brothel, located near a highway and surrounded by jungle, for just two days before they were able to conduct Operation BENGAL.

Local law enforcement had asked the team to travel to their district to help with the case. The Exodus Road's investigators traveled almost 500 miles to assist police with the investigation and raid.

Kevin Campbell, VP of Global Operations, said the raid was even more successful than they had hoped it would be. "During the investigative process, The Exodus Road initially found four girls," Campbell said. "However, when the actual raid was executed, not only were those four girls found, but an additional seven who had been recently trafficked."

The 11 women rescued had been trafficked from a different region of India, so they did not speak the local language. They were able to communicate in broken Hindi with The Exodus Road's social workers to understand what was happening.

The women were afraid until social workers explained that they were being rescued. One of the survivors, 25-year-old Rochi\*, had been trafficked more than 250 miles away from home with the promise of a cleaning job.

Rather than being taken to Mumbai to start a new job, Rochi was sold into the brothel, where she remained for the next three months before investigators found her.

In many human trafficking cases, traffickers prey on the most vulnerable and poor with false promises of a job. In this case, Rochi was taken from a life where she had some education and what investigators called "a good family."

Rochi's family owns a farming business and she has the equivalent of an eighth-grade education -- more than many young women in rural India. She told social workers that she didn't think her family knew she had been trafficked.

Rochi is now recovering in a government safe home, where she will receive continuing support and can have the opportunity to return home.

The Exodus Road is a nonprofit based in Colorado Springs, Colo., that works together with local law enforcement to find and rescue victims of human trafficking in India, Thailand, Southeast Asia, and Latin America. The Exodus Road has 63 active operatives on its Search & Rescue teams and has supported 835 rescues and 318 arrests in five years.