The Exodus Road®

January 26, 2024

The Exodus Road's Statement Regarding Recent Online Harassment

For more than a decade, The Exodus Road has committed itself to assisting law enforcement in investigation and intervention efforts on behalf of victims of human trafficking crime.

We take seriously our responsibility to the survivors we serve, the law enforcement we support, and the corporations, everyday advocates, and employees with whom we partner to disrupt human trafficking. We do not tolerate abuse of any kind. For that reason, we find it imperative to respond to recent threats, harassment, and egregious accusations levied at our employees, partners, and organization online.

The Exodus Road is aware of individual(s) who have attacked our employees, board members, and partners by spreading manufactured lies and defamatory conspiracies across multiple public social media platforms, websites, and public forums. The acts of cyberbullying levied by this individual(s) include: doxing, privacy invasion, harassment, physical threat, defamation, and the generation of fake content purported to show immoral or illegal activities committed by staff or supporters – to name just a few. This is unacceptable and abusive.

As an organization that assists law enforcement in the work of combatting criminals involved in the exploitation of the vulnerable, we are saddened but not surprised when we are on the receiving end of retaliatory actions. The content generated by this individual(s) has shown a clear desire for vindictive and retributive action in defense of those that Thai law enforcement arrested for the sex trafficking of a child. Court proceedings concerning Thai law enforcement's charges are upcoming, and the individual(s) connected are facing criminal human trafficking charges.

We are documenting these attacks and involving international law enforcement where appropriate. We have also filed a claim with the FBI Cyber Crimes unit.

The Exodus Road continues to operate with excellence — in operational tactics, collaboration with law enforcement, and ethical principles. Our investigative efforts exist only in partnership with, and at the request of, law enforcement partners that maintain the legal jurisdiction to act on behalf of the exploited in their communities.

International policies regarding human trafficking victim identification guide our work. Our investigations are confined to cases where human trafficking is already occurring; our practices are designed to wholly avoid any risk of enticement or entrapment. By definition, anyone exploited for labor through force, fraud,

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abuse of power, or coercion for another's profit is a victim of human trafficking. This is true of any form of forced labor, including commercial sexual exploitation. Additionally, any commercial sex act involving a person under 18 years of age is defined as human trafficking (International Labor Organization). The globally-recognized definition of human trafficking crime, as well as information about the horrors of modern-day slavery, can be found at the United Nation's website here.

The Exodus Road envisions a world in which humans are never bought, sold, or exploited. Any business, individual, or system that perpetuates or defends human trafficking in any form, but particularly the sale of children for sex, is one which our organization will proudly stand against.

For more information on our work, visit theexodusroad.com/faq.

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