

Composite Case Scenario

Male A is forty years of age and controls a trafficking network that is based in a South Eastern European capitol city. He controls this criminal activity together with his thirty-seven year old brother, Male B. Both men have criminal convictions for offences of possession of firearms and physical assault.

Male A has a previous conviction for an offence of rape and has been suspected by the Organised Crime Squad of involvement in a number of gang-related murders, but he has never been prosecuted in relation to any of them

Neither man has any form of legitimate income but both drive Mercedes 320s and each lives in a luxury apartment in a new building development in an up-market suburb of the city.

Males A and B have organised crime links to the owners of four nightclubs in a Middle Eastern capitol city and they recruit young attractive females in their South Eastern European country to perform as 'cabaret' dancers at the Arabic clubs. These females are also required to act as prostitutes and supply all forms of sexual services to clients of the clubs in a series of upstairs rooms at the premises. They are not made aware of this additional requirement prior to travelling to the Middle East.

Males A and B use two separate methods to recruit female victims in the country of origin. They place advertisements in local newspapers in both the capital city and the other major towns of the country offering substantial salaries for 'attractive females' who wish to work as 'dancers' in foreign countries. The advertisement states that the work is fully legitimate, backed up by proper employment contracts and official visa entitlements. To reinforce the recruitment activity, Male A also employs two further men, Males C and D, and two females, E and F, to tour the bars, discos and clubs of the capitol city to develop personal networks of contacts amongst young females in order to lure them into the network.

Female candidates are interviewed by Male A at his employment agency in the city and if successful, he then supplies them with the overseas employment contracts and arranges for either Male C or D to accompany the females when they apply for their passports and for their visas. Males C and D also take the females to a local travel agency to purchase the airline tickets for their travel to the Middle East. The ticket route is always to the Middle East via Vienna on Austrian Airlines. There are two flights per week, on a Wednesday and Saturday evening. The tickets are purchased with cash. When the female recruits are sent to the Middle East, either female E or F accompanies them on the flight and delivers them to the clubs.

There are approximately ten dancers at each of the clubs and they are required to work from 1400hrs each day through until 0400hrs and to 'entertain' as many clients that may wish to purchase their sexual services. They are instructed to provide whatever form of sexual service that the client requires and this includes oral, vaginal and anal sexual intercourse, with or without condom protection, subject to the client wishes. The females have no choice in this matter and any refusal to fulfil a client demand is punished by the use of physical violence by the club managers and barmen who act as enforcers for the club owners.

The females are instructed to charge a minimum of 100USD for these sexual services and all of the money is paid directly to an older female at each of the premises who acts as the

manageress in charge of the females. This older woman is from the same South Eastern European country as the females and speaks the same native tongue. Each of these 'managers' is in fact a former trafficked victim that now works on behalf of the club owners and Males A and B in the country of origin.

The female dancers are instructed that all of the money is to be paid over until their 'debt bonds' to the club owners and Males A and B have been paid off. The females are not told the exact size of their debt bond, only that it is in the sum of thousands of dollars to cover travel and documentation arrangements, accommodation and club infrastructure costs.

The females are accommodated in the cellar room of each club where they are detained under lock and key during the periods when the clubs are closed for business. The accommodation consists of a number of mattresses on the floor and one single toilet and shower facility.

The money earned by the females and paid to their female managers is then divided between Males A and B and the club owners. Males A and B take 30% of the earnings and the remaining 70% is taken by the club owners. On the Friday of each week, one of the female managers collects the money from each of the other three female managers and transfers the money owed to A and B via Western Union Money transfer to the favour of two 'bogus' female recipients in the South Eastern European capital where Males A and B are based.

On a weekly basis, the sum sent via Western Union varies between 7000 and 12000USD. Back in the origin country, the female recruiters 'E' and F hold false photograph identification papers in the name of the bogus recipients and they collect the money each Friday and then goes to Male A's employment agency where they pay the money over to both Males A and B.

In January 2003, Cristina, an eighteen year old unemployed female is approached by Male C and female E whilst she is in a local bar with friends in the capitol city of the South Eastern European city. Cristina has a one-year old son from a previous relationship and lives at home with her baby, her parents and two younger brothers. She used to go to school with Male C's younger sister and both families vaguely know of each other. She has seen Male C before in the locality and has spoken briefly with him in the past. Cristina has mounting personal debts and no prospect of employment.

Male C and Female E explain to her the benefits of working abroad as a 'dancer' and encourage her to apply to A's agency for a contract to 'dance' in the Middle East. They explain to her that, as an attractive female, she will earn good wages and tips from the clients at the clubs. No mention is made of prostitution. Cristina sees the offer as a golden opportunity to rid herself of her debts and make some money of her own.

Cristina agrees to their plan and is interviewed the next day by Male A at his employment agency. He agrees to employ her and fills out the contract that she then signs. He explains to her that costs will be incurred in obtaining her visa and airline ticket and that fees will be owed to the club for her accommodation etc. He goes on to explain that, as she has no money, she will be allowed to pay back these expenses from her wages until such time as the debts to him and the club are paid off. He tells her that he will not be able to calculate the final figure that she owes until her travel has been completed, but that 'as a good looking girl with a good figure' she will not have any difficulty in paying back the money.

Cristina already has a genuine passport of her own and Male C accompanies her to make the visa application and to obtain the airline ticket for her travel to the Middle East. All the necessary fees are paid in cash by 'C'. Male C then tells Cristina that he will collect her from her family address the following day, Saturday, to take her to the airport for her flight to the Middle East. She agrees to this.

As arranged, Male C collects Cristina from her home on the following day and then takes her to the address of Female E where she meets up with Female E and two other young females, Marta and Maria, who have also signed contracts and are travelling to the Middle East to be 'dancers'. Female E explains to all three that she will accompany them to the Middle East to act as their guide and she takes possession of their passports and airline tickets in order to 'facilitate' their progress through the airports. Male C then drives the four females to the airport and they fly to the Middle East via Vienna on the Saturday evening flight.

After going through immigration in the Middle Eastern capitol city, Female E again takes possession of the passports and employment contracts of Cristina, Marta and Maria, explaining that the club owner will need to copy them temporarily in order to fill out their residency and employment forms. The three females are then taken to one of the nightclubs where she hands them and their documents over to the owner. Female E then leaves.

The club owner, together with his male barman, then takes the three females to the cellar of the club where he shows them their accommodation and introduces them to five other females that are already resident in the cellar. It is immediately clear to Cristina, Marta and Maria that something is very wrong in the situation as they can see that two of other females are very young and obviously only in their mid-teenage years and that at least one of the girls has bruising upon her face. In addition, the accommodation conditions are primitive and unsatisfactory for eight females living together.

Upon seeing the reaction of Cristina, Marta and Maria, the club owner immediately explains the truth to them; he tells them he now owns them, he having purchased them from Males A and B and that they each owe them and him large amounts of money that they must pay off by acting as dancers and prostitutes in his club. He warns them that he is going to retain their identity documents and that any refusal on their part to satisfy the demands of the clients will result in beatings. Moreover, he tells them that if they continue to refuse to do as he says, he will have them arrested as illegal entrants to the country by corrupt police contacts of his and that they will be imprisoned in the country because prostitution is a crime. Cristina, Marta and Maria are then locked into the cellar accommodation together with the other five females.

From that evening onwards, the females begin to act as prostitutes and to comply with the directions of the club owner. They are required to lap dance for the clients and then provide all forms of sexual services to them in the upstairs room of the club. Their activities are supervised at all times by their 'manageress', Alisa'. Before servicing each client, they are required to take the money and hand it immediately to Alisa. On average, each female services between four and ten clients per night. When the club is closed they are kept locked in the cellar of the premises.

On the second night, Marta refuses to provide a client with unprotected anal sexual intercourse and the client complains to the club owner. Maria is then ordered to provide the client with the service he requires, which she does. Meanwhile, on instructions from the club owner, the

barman takes Marta to the cellar where she is then beaten around her torso and lower legs with a hard rubber baton. He then anally rapes her so that 'she would get used to it for the future'.

The following night, Cristina suffers the same fate and is beaten with the hard rubber baton and raped in the cellar by the club barman after a client had complained that she had not shown sufficient enthusiasm when performing un-protected oral intercourse on him.

Some nights later, a group of wealthy Western European businessmen visit the club as clients. One of the businessmen goes upstairs to the one of prostitution rooms with one of the under-age, mid-teenage girls that Cristina had seen in the cellar when she had first arrived. The client is uncomfortable about her age and questions her about it. She admits that she is only fifteen years of age and that she had never wanted to be a prostitute. The client is appalled by this and pays the girl the 100USD without actually accepting sexual services from her. He promises to help her.

The following day, the client goes to his embassy in the city and demands an interview with the First Secretary. He relates what had occurred the previous evening and demands that the embassy seek police action over the exploitation of child prostitutes. He tells the embassy secretary that his company will re-consider their entire investment plans in the country if the matter isn't addressed.

The following night, the police raid the club and remove all of the females, including Cristina, Marta and Maria and take them to the police station. The nightclub owner and barman are not detained by the police, who seemed to know them well.

The officers are abusive to the females and accuse them of being 'foreign whores'. The under-age girl reports her abuse to the police but they ignore her and state that she is just a 'lying whore' who is only interested in money. They tell the females that they will be prosecuted for engaging in prostitution and that they will eventually be deported and barred from re-entering the country. The females are imprisoned by the police for eight days before being deported as a result of pressure from the foreign embassy of the offended client.

When Cristina, Marta and Maria arrive home by airplane, they are further detained and interrogated by immigration officials. Cristina remains silent throughout because of her knowledge that Male C knows where she and her family lives, but Marta and Maria explain that their documents have been seized by the club owner and that they did not know in advance that they were going to be exploited as prostitutes. They try to explain that they had signed what they believed to be official contracts but fall silent through fear when the interviewers ask them to name the agency from which the contracts has been obtained. Marta tells the officials that she dare not answer that question for fear for her own safety.

Maria shows the interviewers the residual bruising on her lower legs from the beating she had received and asks for medical treatment for genital injuries sustained during her rape but this is refused. The interviewers are also abusive to them and condemn them as prostitutes that are only interested in making money and that they bring shame upon the reputation of the country. They are eventually released without any form of support and warned that the facts will be further investigated and reported to the Office of the General Prosecutor.

Cristina immediately returns to her family home, telling her parents that the club had gone bankrupt and that her contract has been terminated. She does not tell them the truth about what had been done to her.

Two days later, whilst Cristina is in the city centre with her baby son, she is again approached by Male C. This time he is extremely aggressive towards her and tells her that she still owes Males A and B a significant amount of money. She tries to explain to him that the police raid and deportation had not been her fault and that they should not hold her responsible for it. Male C then tells her that she must go back to the Middle East where she will work in a different club until she pays off the debt that she owes. Cristina tries to refuse, claiming that it will be impossible because she no longer has her passport. Male C states that she will be provided with a new false one and she should prepare to travel back to the Middle East at the weekend. Cristina refuses.

Male C then shows her a flick knife that he has concealed in his jacket pocket and points towards her baby son. He tells her that if she does not do as she is told, her son will be severely injured and reminds her of the reputation of Males A and B for extreme violence. He also reminds her that the location of the family home is known to them and that if she doesn't go back, her family are likely to be harmed as well. He instructs Cristina to attend the employment agency the following day together with some passport photographs of herself. With extreme reluctance, but in genuine fear of the consequences of refusal for her son and family, Cristina agrees to go back to the Middle East.

The following Saturday, she is once again collected by Male C and on this occasion is taken to the home address of Female F. At her apartment, Cristina is introduced to another girl, Natalia who is of a similar age to Cristina and who has also signed an employment contract with Male A. During a quiet moment whilst Cristina is together with Natalia, Cristina tells her the truth about the prostitution and the trafficking network and urges her to refuse to travel before it is too late. Natalia doesn't take Cristina seriously and tells her that she will risk it in any event because she has to make money to pay off mounting medical debts for treatment given to her terminally ill mother.

Both females then travel on the Saturday night flight to the Middle East via the usual route accompanied by Female F who takes possession of their documents and contracts in the normal way. Both end up in a different Middle Eastern nightclub where they are immediately subjected to the same level of exploitation as prostitutes.

Natalia is unable to adjust to the life of a prostitute and receives several beatings and sexual assaults by male club staff for refusing to accede to client demands. Cristina does not refuse any client demands and is not subjected to any further physical or sexual abuse. All of the earnings of both females are handed to the 'manageress' in the normal way.

After several weeks of this type of lifestyle, Natalia goes to one of the prostitution rooms with a client that is very drunk. After several unsuccessful attempts at sexual intercourse, he falls into a deep sleep. Natalia takes the opportunity to use the client's mobile phone to telephone her mother. She tells her mother of the abuse that she has suffered and begs her to seek help to get her rescued from her nightmare. She tells her mother the name of the club and the city in which it is located. She replaces the phone in the client's pocket and neither he nor any of the club staff are aware that she has made the call.

Her mother immediately telephones a counter-trafficking hotline that is operated by a joint IGO-NGO partnership. She asks them to help to release her daughter. The IGO utilises its global network and contacts its office in the Middle Eastern country. Arrangements are then made through the Ministry of Interior for the local police to visit the club together with members of the IGO office.

Three nights later, the club is raided and five 'dancers' are found on the premises, including Natalia and Cristina. They are then taken to the local police station where they are immediately handed into the care of the IGO office. The IGO personnel obtain temporary travel documents for the two females who are then flown home. By prior arrangement, both females are met at the airport by the IGO staff and police officers from the counter-trafficking unit of the Organised Crime Squad. They are facilitated through the immigration controls by officers from the CTU and are then handed over to the IGO personnel who take both females to the victim shelter that they manage in one of the city suburbs. The first thing that Natalia learns on her return is that her mother has died of her terminal illness.

Both Cristina and Natalia begin to receive medical and psychological assistance at the shelter and both females receive legal counselling from the shelter lawyer. Natalia is consumed with anger and guilt over her exploitation and the death of her mother. She tells the shelter lawyer that she is interested in telling her story to the counter-trafficking police as she wants revenge against her traffickers. The lawyer undertakes to make the necessary arrangements for her to see an officer.

Cristina, having been told of her legal options, also expresses an interest in exploring the option of becoming a witness, but she remains gravely concerned for the safety of her son and family.

The following day, with the agreement of the shelter psychologist, both females accompany the lawyer to a meeting in the local McDonalds restaurant with two members of the counter-trafficking unit, one a male and one a female, both of whom are in plain clothes. The female officer does all the talking and explains the legal requirements to both women if they wish to act as witnesses. The female officer also hands them a copy of the conditions attached to giving testimony. Natalia decides there and then that she wishes to give evidence against her exploiters and tells this to the officers in the presence of Cristina. They tell her to pause and to confer further with the lawyer and let them know her decision the following day.

Cristina says nothing at the meeting and does not indicate one way or the other whether she will co-operate with the police officers. At the conclusion of the meeting, the females and the lawyer go back to the shelter. Natalia re-asserts her wish to testify against Males A and C and the female F because, for her, testifying against them will be an act of redemption in the eyes of her dead mother.

On the other hand, Cristina, having weighed the options, decides to say nothing to anybody about what has happened to her. She confides to the counsellor that the risk of reprisals to her son and family make it impossible for her to co-operate.

The following day, the lawyer notifies the CTU officers that Natalia wishes to make a statement but that Cristina is not prepared to co-operate in anyway at all. An appointment is made for that afternoon for Natalia to begin to give her statement. Natalia spends the next two days providing the officers with a detailed high-quality account of her contact with Males A and C and the

female F and of the modus operandi of their trafficking network etc. At the conclusion, she signs her statement and signifies her readiness to testify against them in court.

Arrangements are made for both females to remain in the shelter whilst they continue to receive medical treatment for acute sexually transmitted diseases and psychological counselling to help them to begin to come to terms with the abuse that they have suffered.

Two days later, in agreement with the shelter staff, Cristina leaves the shelter in order to go to her family home to see her son and parents. She leaves the premises and begins to walk to the main road to catch the bus into the city centre. Before she reaches the corner of the street, a black Mercedes pulls up alongside her and Males A and C get out of the car and stop her. Cristina is pushed into the back of the vehicle that is then driven away by Male C. In the back of the vehicle, Male A produces a handgun and accuses Cristina of alerting the police in the Middle East to raid the club and of betraying his operation in order to avoid paying her debts. She denies this and manages to convince A that the raid was nothing to do with her and that if he checks with the club owner he will discover that Cristina did exactly as she was told and serviced all of her clients without complaint.

Male A is convinced by Cristina's explanation but then tells her that she still owes him a lot of money and that she must leave the shelter and return to the Middle East with three other newly recruited females on the following Saturday night. He then points the gun directly at her and tells her that if she is not ready and waiting for Male C at her home on Saturday night, he will personally kill her son. Moreover, he tells her that if anything further goes wrong on this latest trip to the Middle East, he will hold her personally responsible regardless of whether or not it is her fault and kill both her son and her parents. Cristina is then ordered out of the vehicle and told to be ready for collection on Saturday night.

Now terrified, Cristina returns to the shelter to consider her options. She realises that she is in a 'no-win' situation and that if anything happens in the Middle East, such as another raid, her family will suffer irrespective of whether it has got anything to do with her. She realises that if she returns to the Middle East, she will lose any possibility of protecting her family from Male A and his associates.

Cristina asks to see the shelter lawyer again. She tells her exactly what has happened to her and states that she wishes to inform the police about her planned departure with the other two girls on the following Saturday night. She re-asserts the fact that she can never testify against Male A but is prepared to help the police to catch his organisation in the act, particularly now that Natalia has provided a statement against them. She tells the lawyer that she does not trust the police but asks the lawyer if she will inform the police on her behalf of the arrangements for the following Saturday night so that they can intercept the departure.

The lawyer agrees to do so and makes an appointment to see the same members of the CTU that were present at the meeting with Natalia and Cristina. At the meeting, the lawyer tells the officers of the plans for three females to take a plane via Vienna for the Middle East on Saturday night. She gives them addresses of Females E and F as the two possible collection points and the details of the flight schedule. She does not mention that Cristina is the source of this information.

The operational chief of the CTU then decides, based upon the statement of Natalia and the intelligence from the shelter lawyer, to intercept the departure and effect the rescue of the three victims and effect the simultaneous arrest of Males A, and C and female F.