



**HUMAN TRAFFICKING WORKING GROUP**

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[www.law.uq.edu.au/humantrafficking](http://www.law.uq.edu.au/humantrafficking)

**CASE REPORT**

Current as on: November 20, 2008

<b>Case Name</b>	<b>Jetsadophorn ‘Ning’ Chaladone</b>
<b>Reported in</b>	unreported
<b>Date(s)</b>	1995
<b>Location</b>	Sydney (NSW)
<b>Charges</b>	n/a
<b>Appeal</b>	n/a
<b>Co-accused</b>	n/a

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## Case summary

Jetsadophorn 'Ning' Chaladone was trafficked from Thailand to Australia as a thirteen year-old in 1995. She left Thailand with the consent of her father, on expectations she would be working as a nanny in Sydney. Instead, Ms Chaladone was put to work as a prostitute in a brothel in Surry Hills, Sydney, and was told that she would be required to complete at least 650 sex acts in order to service the AU\$35,000 debt she had incurred by travelling to Australia.<sup>1</sup>

The brothel in which Ms Chaladone was working was raided by immigration officials ten days after she had begun work there, by which time she had already had sex with 100 men. During this period she was threatened with physical violence if she did not comply with the brothel operator's requests and was not permitted to leave the 'safe house' where she and the other sex workers slept. Ms Chaladone was expediently detained and deported by the Department of Immigration back to Thailand. The brothel operators responsible for trafficking, enslaving and prostituting of Ning Chaladone were never investigated by New South Wales Police, despite the pressure from the Department of Immigration evident from correspondence between the two agencies.<sup>2</sup> It is worth noting that no federal anti-sexual servitude and no trafficking offence existed at that time. As a result, the Australian Federal Police (AFP) lacked jurisdiction to investigate the offences committed against her. It has also been alleged that neither state nor federal agencies were notified of the fact that Ms Chaladone was a minor.<sup>3</sup> However, media coverage of her case in Australia led Thai police to investigate her traffickers, leading to the conviction of three Thai nationals who were sentenced for up to 19 years in jail.<sup>4</sup>

## Victim Compensation

Early in 2007, Ms Chaladone returned to Australia and successfully brought a claim before the NSW Victims Compensation Tribunal. She received an undisclosed sum (though awards are capped at AU\$50,000) after the Tribunal agreed that she had suffered post-traumatic stress and depression (a 'moderate to severe depressive disorder') as a result of her trafficking ordeal.<sup>5</sup> The Tribunal does not require the accused person to be brought before it; rather it simply needs to be satisfied that a person is a victim of crime and has suffered harm as a result.

## Media Reports

Ning Chaladone's story was the subject of a 2005 documentary entitled 'Trafficked', which also examined the case of Thai trafficking victim Ms Puontong Simaplee, who died in immigration detention in Villawood (NSW) in 2001.<sup>6</sup> The director and producer of 'Trafficked', Luigi Acquisto, travelled to Thailand in an effort to track down Ning, aided by a former AFP agent who had set up anti-trafficking operation in the early 1990s. The pair succeeded in finding Ning, who by then was 25, married and with a newborn son.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Samantha Donovan, 'Tribunal pays compensation to sex trafficking victim', *PM: Australian Broadcasting Corporation* (Sydney), 29 May 2007 <<http://www.abc.net.au/pm/content/2007/s1936937.htm>> at 18 Nov 2008.

<sup>2</sup> See Natalie Craig, 'Sex slave wins abuse claim', *The Age* (Melbourne), 29 May 2007, 4.

<sup>3</sup> Good Shepherd Social Justice Network, *Film Australia Presents Trafficked*, (2005) [3] <[http://www.goodshepherd.com.au/justice/documents/trafficked\\_synopsis.pdf](http://www.goodshepherd.com.au/justice/documents/trafficked_synopsis.pdf)> at 19 Nov 2008.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Rob Taylor, 'Former Thai sex slave wins Australian compensation', *News.com.au*, 30 May 2007 <<http://www.news.com.au/story/0,23599,21819937-1242,00.html>> at 18 Nov 2008.

<sup>6</sup> See generally, Good Shepherd Social Justice Network, *Film Australia Presents Trafficked*, (2005) <[http://www.goodshepherd.com.au/justice/documents/trafficked\\_synopsis.pdf](http://www.goodshepherd.com.au/justice/documents/trafficked_synopsis.pdf)> at 18 Nov 2008. Separate case file available at <http://www.law.uq.edu.au/humantrafficking>.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

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