



HUMAN TRAFFICKING WORKING GROUP
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www.law.uq.edu.au/humantrafficking

CASE REPORT

Current as on: November 25, 2008

Table with 2 columns: Case Name, Reported in, Date(s), Court/Jurisdiction, Charges, Appeal. Row 1: DPP v Glazner, DPP v Glazner [2001] VSCA 204, Arrest: 1999, Victoria, s 1 Prostitution Control Act 1994 (Vic): living off the earning of prostitution, s 22 Prostitution Control Act 1994 (Vic): being an unlicensed prostitution provider., n/a

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Case Summary

Among the first high-profile cases relating to human trafficking in Australia was the prosecution of Gary Glazner in Melbourne. The case was initially brought to the attention of the authorities by an informant in 1997 and it resulted in the arrest of Mr Glazner 14 months later in 1999.

The investigations revealed that Mr Glazner had brought several Thai women to Australia after buying them for about \$18,000-\$20,000 each from an agent in Thailand.¹ They were aware that they would be working in the sex industry, but were kept in slavery-like conditions once they arrived in Melbourne. The women initially entered Australia on tourist visas and at that time, were accompanied by a Thai 'minder' who escorted them and carried their passports. Some of these documents were forged while others were legal. Glazner then took away the women's passports and was able to obtain work rights for them by lodging forged refugee protection visa applications on their behalf. He accommodated the women in small hotel rooms in Kew, Melbourne where he sealed the windows and installed iron gates and bars to restrict their movement. Glazner verbally abused the women and kept a firearm in clear view of them; there was, however, no evidence of any physical abuse of the women by Glazner. They were forced to work 12 hours a day, seven days a week in an unlicensed brothel in South Melbourne, and were told that they would not receive any payment for their first 500 jobs. Some of the women were also moved to premises in Sydney. It has been estimated that Glazner made at least \$1.2 million from these women, though it was suspected that he was associated with at least 40 other 'contract girls'. However, these persons were unwilling to testify against him.²

While these facts fit many of the characteristics of trafficking in persons, at the time the Glazner case came to light, Australia did not have any criminal offences relating to trafficking or sexual servitude. Accordingly, Glazner was only charged and convicted for offences under the *Prostitution Control Act 1994* (Victoria), including being an unlicensed prostitution provider (s 22) and living off the earnings of prostitution (s 10). He received a suspended 30-months sentence and a \$30,000 fine: *DPP v Glazner* [2001] VSCA 204.³ Charges of false imprisonment were unsuccessful as there was insufficient evidence of any violence or immediate threats of violence to the women.⁴

Media Reports

The facts of the Glazner case provided the basis for the 2007 Australian film 'The Jammed', which dealt with the topic of human trafficking in Australia.⁵

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¹ *DPP v Glazner* [2001] VSCA 204 [6].

² Lara Fergus, 'Trafficking in women for sexual exploitation' (June 2005) 5 *Briefing, Australian Centre for the Study of Sexual Assault* (Australian Institute of Family Studies) 18-19 with reference to the unpublished court reports; Marnie Ford, *Sex slaves and legal loopholes* (2001) 17-26.

³ Fergus, above n2, 18-19.

⁴ Ford, above n2, 17.

⁵ Luke Buckmaster, *Features: Veronica Sywak and The Jammed* (2007) Infilm Australia <<http://www.infilm.com.au/?p=112>> at 25 November 2008.