



**HUMAN TRAFFICKING WORKING GROUP**  
Dr Andreas Schloenhardt (Coordinator)

The University of Queensland  
TC Beirne School of Law

The University of British Columbia  
Centre of International Relations

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**NEWS REPORT**

<b>Headline</b>	<b>Sex workers 'were \$5 slaves', Victorian Supreme Court hears</b>
<b>Reported in</b>	<i>The Herald Sun</i>
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<b>Related reports</b>	April 22, 2009: Thai sex workers were slaves April 22, 2009: Thai sex industry imports 'traded, possessed and used for profit'

Four men are facing trial accused of being involved in a sex slavery scheme involving Thai women. Prosecutor Daniel Gurvich said Kam Tin Ho, 40, Ho Kam Ho, 38, Chee Fui Hoo, 42, and Slamet Edy Rahardjo, 53, were each accused of playing a part in a sophisticated and well-planned scheme to bring Thai women to Australia and profit from their willingness to work for minimal reward in the sex industry.

The Supreme Court heard today that five Thai women were brought to Australia to work in the sex industry. The jury was told that one of the women had not started work, but the other women worked at two South Melbourne brothels. Each came to Australia knowing they were going to work in the sex industry, Mr Gurvich said. Some of them had previously been prostitutes, the court heard.

"They were aware they had to pay a price to secure their journey to Australia and the opportunity to earn money to assist their families back in Thailand."

Mr Gurvich said the price was a contract to incur a debt whereby they had to service between 650 and 750 men. Women worked six days per week with clients paying \$125 for a half-hour sexual service, Mr Gurvich said. The women allegedly received \$5 per client while they were satisfying their debt. Mr Gurvich said they were allowed to work on their day off and earn \$50 per client.

"In the course of this scheme, the women were traded, possessed and used for profit, reducing them to the condition of slavery," Mr Gurvich said. Mr Gurvich said there was strict control over many aspects of the women's lives for the duration of the contract and usually even after it expired. He said the women were transported to and from the brothels with clear instructions not to go outside unaccompanied when they were at their accommodation. In many cases the women were not permitted to have a key, Mr Gurvich said.

Mr Rahardjo, of New South Wales, is facing one charge of entering into a commercial transaction involving a slave; Mr Hoo, of Burnside Heights, is charged with two counts of intentionally possessing a slave and one of intentionally exercising over a slave a power attaching to the right of ownership, the Ho brothers, of East Doncaster, are each charged with four counts of intentionally possessing a slave, four counts of intentionally exercising over a slave a power attaching to the right of ownership and entering into a commercial transaction involving a slave. Kam Tin Ho is also charged with four offences against the Financial Transactions Reports Act. Ho Kam Ho faces one charge of an offence against the Financial Transactions Reports Act.

The trial before Justice Philip Cummins continues

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