

Commercial Sexual Exploitation - Qatar World Cup

Introduction

Trafficking and exploitation of persons for the purpose of sexual exploitation from a wide range of nations to the Gulf area are likely to be significantly increased during the World Cup tournament in November 2022.

Despite the illegality of both the sale and purchase of sex in Qatar, the illicit business has been thriving for some years and is scaling up for the influx of a mainly male visitor group during the tournament.

Adult Services Websites advertise extensively and explicitly in Qatar and the surrounding nations and there is consistent evidence of control within them.

Financial transaction patterns may offer new opportunities to identify crimes in action and network analysis by financial businesses can provide law enforcement with new safeguarding opportunities.

We assess as follows:

a) Of the 100's of ads for sex, around 20% are selling Russian women, usually contactable using Russian cell phones. Women from East and South Africa, the majority using Kenya cell phones, are the next largest group at 15%, followed by Latino women at 12%. The women are for sale from 0900 to 0200 the following morning.

b) At this stage, there are no signs of ads for men selling sex.

c) All purchases of women for sex are to be arranged via WhatsApp messaging, almost without exception. Direct calls are much discouraged, perhaps for operational security reasons. In-calls and Outcalls are advertised.

d) Purchasing a woman or girl for sex begins at 1,000 Qatari Riyals an hour (\$275), and incomes per day per exploited woman are likely to exceed 6,000 Riyals (\$1,650) / \$10,000 a week flowing through accounts. Payments from customers are likely to be via traditional Banking instruments.

e) Women from the following nations are being advertised: Vietnam, Philippines, Sweden, Ukraine, USA, India, Belgium, U.K., Japan, Spain and Thailand.

Information Requirements (what we need to know)

- 1) Details of controllers.
- 2) Details of payment systems utilised by traffickers.
- 3) Complicit landlords or hotels, taxi businesses.

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