



AFESIP INTERNATIONAL

*Acting For Women in Distressing Circumstances
Agir Pour Les Femmes En Situation Précaire*

AFESIP Press Release

**10.30am
14 December 2004
Press Conference
FCCT – Bangkok**

Such criminal behaviour as shown by the events of the past week highlights the impunity with which criminal networks work. Furthermore, it highlights the better ability of organised criminal networks to push their interests at political level, than other interest groups such as civil society organisations and the population at large. Events like this happen in smaller or larger scales in many other countries in the world where organised crime is rife; e.g. Albania and other Eastern European Countries. Why do such organised criminal syndicates have better access to political influences than those that are promoting justice and the eradication of sex slavery? What powers are these criminal syndicates holding over those that have political influence? First and foremost, they are established networks already earning millions of dollars through other criminal activities such as drugs and arms trafficking, money laundering as well as human trafficking and slavery. Their ability to profit phenomenally from such activities gives them the power to buy impunity from these crimes. Gaps in official responses to anti-trafficking are exploited by these criminals. For any hope in preventing and eradicating the trafficking and enslavement of women and children for sex slavery we must directly question these organised criminal networks and the influences they have.

On the international level, the influence of organised crime exhibits a serious threat to democracy. This event is an example of organised criminal networks' dangerous ability to push their interests at political level, seriously undermining the most foundational values of democracy.

AFESIP
20:00
12 December 2004