

Organization Attributes Sheet: San Fernando Sex Trafficking Ring

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A. When the organization was formed + brief history
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Although there is no definitive organization named the San Fernando Sex Trafficking Group, A loose network operating in the San Fernando area of Trinidad and Tobago has been involved in trafficking women from various nations in South America, Asia, and Africa to work as prostitutes in brothels and hotels.¹• Men have also been victims of human trafficking in the San Fernando area of Trinidad and Tobago, forced to work as slave labor in most cases.²• A police raid in 2007 at the Villa Capri Hotel near San Fernando, found 71 foreign women who were trafficked in to work as prostitutes along with 3 men.³ The hotel was raided again in 2008, and 42 more foreign women who had been trafficked into the country to work as prostitutes were found.⁴• Shortly after the second raid in 2008, the hotel was closed down indefinitely.⁵
B. Types of illegal activities engaged in,
a. In general
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Human trafficking.
b. <i>Specific detail: types of illicit trafficking activities engaged in</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Women and men are trafficked into Trinidad and Tobago to work as prostitutes or slave laborers with the use of fraudulent passports. In other cases, women and men are covertly brought into the country by small ships landing at beaches, not official ports.• Coming mainly from Colombia, Suriname, Guyana and the Dominican Republic, these people are usually lured in under the guise of receiving well-paying jobs, but are then forced to work as prostitutes or slave labor in order to pay back those who brought them into the country.⁶• In the case of the Villa Capri Hotel, the women lived in an apartment adjacent to the Villa Capri Hotel, but worked as prostitutes out of the hotel.• There are a large number of hotels that operate in the network.
C. Scope and Size
a. Estimated size of network and membership
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No exact size can be determined, but the network is likely relatively large as men and women are being brought in from locations around the world to work at many different hotels in the San Fernando area.
b. Countries / regions group is known to have operated in. (i.e. the group's operating area)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• San Fernando area, Trinidad and Tobago.
D. Leader Characteristics
a. Who is/are the leader(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cecil Sydney, owner of the Villa Capri Hotel before his death, was allegedly a main figure in sex trafficking in the San Fernando area.• Charles Stewart, a former police officer, was also believed to be a main figure in sex trafficking in the San Fernando area before his death.⁷• Current leadership is unknown.
b. Leadership timeline
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sydney died in 2008, shortly after the second raid on his hotel.

Information derived from several sources and searchable databases.

All research conducted according to the project manual.

c.	Leadership style (autocratic, diffuse, etc.)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative effort.
E. Organizational Structure	
a.	Topology (cellular, hierarchical, etc.)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cellular – the trafficking ring appears to take place in many different independent locations, primarily hotels, with many people involved, without any sign of a formal hierarchy.
b.	Membership – is there formal or informal membership in the organization or network? What role do informal or nonmembers play in trafficking and other criminal activities?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informal as it appears the ring operates out of brothels and hotels, implying the role of compliance among many different entities involved including taxi drivers, hotel owners and workers, and crew-members of ships transporting the people.
c.	Command and Control (decentralized or centralized)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decentralized - it appears to be a widespread and collaborative operation, Villa Capri was just one hotel that was taking part in human trafficking.
F. Resources	
a.	Financial
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constant revenue from pimping out women.
b.	Human
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women working as prostitutes. • Men working as slave labor.
c.	Logistical
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Forgery, safe-houses, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hotels and brothels. Key routes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ships coming in from various South American countries.
d.	Transportation
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Land <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found. Sea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men and women brought in on ships. Air <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found. Intermodal container <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found.
G. Trafficking Methods and Modalities	
a.	Corruption
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible neglect on part of authorities by allowing human trafficking to occur.
b.	Concealment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found.
c.	Deception
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of fraudulent passports given to women and men for access into the country.
d.	Circumvention (avoiding border entry points)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of small boats to land on beaches to avoid official ports of entry.
H. Prior / Existing Relationships	
a.	Other criminal organizations (cooperative and conflictual)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information not found.

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All research conducted according to the project manual.

<p>b. Corrupt politicians, law enforcement , political parties and other state entities, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although there have been no reported instances of authorities assisting in human trafficking, there has been a sense that the Trinidad authorities neglect the issue, letting trafficking occur without interference.
<p>c. <i>Specific detail: Any alliances / past dealings with terrorist groups.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No connections have been determined.
<p>I. Ideological / Ethnic / Familial Orientation (if any)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None revealed.
<p>J. Technical Sophistication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited.
<p>K. Penchant for Innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low.
<p>L. Activities in United States</p> <p>a. Includes both criminal and non-criminal activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found. <p>b. <i>Specific detail: trafficking activities ; logistical activities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found <p>c. Linkages with US groups</p> <p>i. Market/transaction links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found <p>ii. Stable supplier</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found <p>iii. Franchise arrangement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found <p>iv. HQ and Branch office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information not found
<p>M. Evaluations</p> <p>a. Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborative efforts among all those involved in the trafficking network makes it difficult for authorities to find a focal point to disrupt the network. <p>b. Weaknesses and vulnerabilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorities have recently begun to crack down on human trafficking in Trinidad and Tobago. <p>c. Additional insights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">
<p>Other Notes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human trafficking in Trinidad and Tobago, especially in the San Fernando area, has recently been hindered by police operations attempting to disrupt trafficking. It should be noted, however, that human trafficking in Trinidad and Tobago seems to be an acceptable and widespread phenomena, as is prostitution in general. In this sense, stopping human trafficking into Trinidad and Tobago appears to be a nearly impossible task.

¹ "Police Bust Prostitution, Human Trafficking Operation," *Caribbean Rim Press* (Internet Version-WWW) In English, July 23, 2007, OSC: LAP20070724334003.

² Hassanali, Shaliza. "Claims of human trafficking ring in T&T." *Trinidad and Tobago Guardian* 17 Apr 2011: Web. <http://guardian.co.tt/news/2011/04/17/claims-human-trafficking-ring-tt>

³ Seelal, Naline. "74 arrested." *Trinidad and Tobago's Newsday* 23 Jul 2007: Web.

<http://www.newsday.co.tt/news/0,61076.html>

⁴ Asson, Cecily. "Villa Capri raided, 42 women held." *Trinidad and Tobago's Newsday* 31 Jan 2008: Web.

<http://www.newsday.co.tt/news/0,72439.html>

⁵ Asson, Cecily. "Villa Capri closes." *Trinidad and Tobago Newsday* 13 Sep 2008: Web.

http://www.newsday.co.tt/crime_and_court/0,86167.html

⁶ Javeed, Asha. "Booming economy feeds the sex trade." *Trinidad and Tobago Guardian* 24 Apr 2008: Web.

<http://legacy.guardian.co.tt/archives/2008-04-26/bussguardian5.html>

⁷ Ramoutar, Richard. "Painful denial or traumatic reality." *Trinidad and Tobago Guardian* 15 Mar 2009: Web.

<http://test.guardian.co.tt/?q=features/life/2009/03/15/painful-denial-or-traumatic-reality>