

Program Publicity

25 August 2011

Documentary

TRAFFICKED - THE RECKONING

8.30pm, Tuesday 20 September on SBS ONE

15 years ago, a young Thai girl was found in a brothel on Blackburn Street in Sydney's Surry Hills. She had been trafficked to Australia from Thailand, handed over to the brothel operator, and put straight to work the night she arrived.



Her name was Ning, and she was only 13 years old. *Trafficked - The Reckoning* is the inspiring story of a former police officer, Chris Payne, and his quest to find, and bring to justice, the man who enslaved her.

Before Ning was brought to Australia, Payne had been working for the Australian Federal Police running Australia's first anti-trafficking operation, 'Paper Tiger'. His operation was shut down a month before Immigration found Ning, and Payne was ordered not to investigate the case. At the time he could do nothing to help prosecute those responsible, and for 15 years he has been living with the guilt that he could do nothing to help this shattered, young girl.

Dissatisfied and frustrated, Payne left the police force but in 2004, he was asked to investigate Ning's story for an SBS documentary. He travelled to Thailand to find Ning, and her harrowing story was the subject of *Trafficked*, the first Australian film about sex slavery.

Seven years later, *Trafficked - The Reckoning* follows Payne, on the request of Ning, as he attempts to track down the brothel operator and put to rest some unfinished business for the both of them.

With no leads, and no idea of the brothel operator's name, the investigation begins. It takes Payne back to Thailand to track down the gang that handed Ning over to the brothel operator, before spending months in Sydney, undertaking his own investigation into the brothels of Surry Hills.

Our story: Human trafficking is one of the highest grossing criminal industries globally, together with drugs and arms. It generates \$32 billion in profit every year.

Six Billion Stories and counting...

For Payne, this is a chance to have another go at something he feels he should have done long ago. For Ning, this is an opportunity to try to bring to justice the man responsible for the horrific ten day experience that has shaped her life.

Before the screening of *Trafficked – The Reckoning*, the original documentary about Ning – *Trafficked* - will be shown on Friday 16 September, 8.30pm on SBS TWO.

ENDS

Interviews are available with:

- Chris Payne, former AFP officer
- Luigi Acquisto, Director, Fairtrade Films
- Stella Zammataro, Producer, Fairtrade Films

Images are available on request or for download from www.sbs.com.au/publicity.

For more information please contact:

Sarah Burke

T: (02) 9430 3319

E: sarah.burke@sbs.com.au

Notes to Editors

Legal advice:

SBS recommends journalists seek their own legal advice before publishing segments of the documentary, or isolated pieces of information from it, that identify those involved in the enslavement of Ning, in order to avoid publishing information that could be considered defamatory. While the documentary *Trafficked – The Reckoning* has been legally reviewed, defences that would apply to publication of the film as a whole may not apply if self-contained segments or pieces of information are published. If journalists are uncertain, it is recommended they seek their own legal advice.

Additional information:

Jetsadophorn Chaladone, known as 'Ning', had her story first told in the SBS documentary *Trafficked*, screened on SBS in 2006. Following the broadcast, two Melbourne barristers, Georgie Costello and Fiona McLeod SC, approached Chris Payne and the filmmakers and informed them that Ning could be entitled to victim of crime compensation from the NSW Attorney General's Department. They then embarked on a difficult, two-year journey to assist Ning in applying for compensation for the crime of statutory rape. Ning, at thirteen, was a minor when she was forced to have sex with over one hundred men during the ten days she was held captive in the Surry Hills brothel, and each act of sex was therefore classified as rape.

In 2007, Ning became the first slave in history to win victim of crime compensation. She was awarded \$50,000 by the Attorney General's Department of NSW for the multiple child rapes committed against her. This ground breaking decision set an important precedent for sex slavery and the ruling was reported around the world.



While Ning felt that this decision acknowledged her suffering and that she was the victim of a crime she still feels that justice had not been done as the person responsible for enslaving her is free and has not been punished for the crime he committed.

Together, the two documentaries – *Trafficked* and *Trafficked – The Reckoning* - present a rare longitudinal account of the damage that slavery has on children.



Six Billion Stories and counting...