

SCENARIO: Alleged Trafficking in a concealed factory

D3S4

Interview report from escaped worker from factory

Escaped worker from a factory reports that it had the following conditions:

- 200 workers forced to work 14 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Sick workers still forced to work, not allowed to hospital
- Workers were told they would receive \$50 per month but costs deducted for recruitment fees to be paid to a broker, for food, accommodation, and other arbitrary costs were not told before they started working
- These debts would be repaid on an ongoing basis though most workers would only receive a net amount of approximately \$5 per week due to other deductions.
- An hour break was given for lunch and workers were allowed two breaks of 5 minutes each to go to the toilet throughout the day.

The supervisor told workers that they paid local police and used threats against those who remained in the factory to ensure compliance against those who try to escape. The escaped worker heard that a woman who tried to escape was beaten by a guard as an example to others. The factory compound, in which all of the workers also live, has high walls all around and a high gate, which is normally kept closed and locked. The report indicates that there are CCTV cameras covering the communal areas inside, and there are 3 supervisor/guards.

There had been previous reports about the factory, but past labour inspections revealed no bad practices. There were concerns that the owner knew in advance when the inspections were going to take place, therefore a surprise raid is planned.

Scenario Exercise

In your country teams, spend 30 minutes analyzing the potential crimes to be investigated at the workplace or how the victims should be identified. 5 minutes will be given for group feedback.

Team A – Investigation of Crimes

- What information and evidence would you try to obtain at the factory?
- What are the potential crimes you are looking for evidence of?
- What agencies should be involved, for what purposes, and at what stages?

Team B – Identification of victims

- If potentially a mixed population of children, women and men, registered and unregistered migrant workers, possibly trafficked and non-trafficked workers, how would you screen/interview the workers?
- What would be the concerns of the workers and the potential barriers to this operation being successful?