



Press Release

## **Seventy Eight-Year-Old Man Sentenced To 10 Years Imprisonment For Running A Brothel**

**Kolkata, 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2020:** In a case from 2015, the Fast Track Court in Haldia, Purba Medinipur, benched by Judge Anil Kumar Prosad, sentenced brothel owner Sk. Khadem to 10 years imprisonment.

Rigorous Imprisonment and fine of Rs 49,000, in default 2 years has been imposed for running a brothel and exploiting minor girls.

Based on a reliable information, the CID conducted a raid and rescue operation at a brothel located in Khirishtala, Mahishadal. International Justice Mission assisted with the operation.

Five people were arrested on the spot and after further investigation, others who aided in running the brothel and procuring victims, were arrested. In this case, 13 victims were rescued, one of whom was a minor.

"The trial was completed within 5 years. Despite the victim girls being coerced by the accused person, this case was relied on documentary evidence which incriminated convict Sk. Khadem.

Standing behind the bars in the courtroom, he folded his hands and pleaded to be acquitted," said Public Prosecutor Dilip Shee, Haldia Court.

"Over the last 10 years, we have observed that the Police, Courts and Social Services in West Bengal are having a zero-tolerance approach against trafficking. The proactive and affirmative actions of the Police and Courts have led to decrease in the organised crime of commercial exploitation of children in brothels. This case reiterated that even if the accused win over witnesses, justice prevails," said Mr. Saptarshi Biswas, Director of Justice Solutions, International Justice Mission.

### **About International Justice Mission:**

International Justice Mission (IJM) is a global organization that protects the poor from violence throughout the developing world. IJM partners with local authorities to rescue victims of violence, bring criminals to justice, restore survivors, and strengthen justice systems. Since 2006, IJM Kolkata has been working alongside government agencies to rescue and rehabilitate victims of sex trafficking, prosecute offenders and train public justice officials.

### **For further information please contact:**

Sreeraj Mitra / Rusha Hazra / Kakoli Das

Sagittarius.Inc

Ph: 9007307884 / 8697719310 / 8697719341