



INFORMATION ON FORCED LABOR AND TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (TIP)-INDICATED CASES IN ONLINE SCAMMING INDUSTRY OVERSEAS

Since 2020, the Government of Indonesia has witnessed increasing number of Indonesians who were lured to work in the online scamming companies abroad (mostly in Southeast Asia) and experienced forced labor. Most of the cases are later indicated of being Trafficking in Persons (TIP). The perpetrators recruit their victims for forced labor in Southeast Asia, and some in Middle-East, to scam people online, through online gambling, cryptocurrency, and romance application, among others. Based on the screening results, some of the victims have experienced trafficking situations with withholding of of their passports, obscure contracts, excessive working hours, and verbal and physical abuses. These cases are considered as new trend in the trafficking in persons modus operandi in Indonesia.

How do the Online Scamming syndicates operate?



The syndicates attract its victims with simple and easy job requirements, false promises of high salary, bonuses, and free accommodations and logistics. The opportunity to work abroad also adds to the attractiveness.

Most of the victims did not know that they end up working as a scammer and are forced to work under an unfavorable contract. The victims are required to work up to 16 hours per day and must achieve certain targets for their wages to be paid.

Many of the victims were experiencing verbal or physical abuses by their employers if they failed to achieve the target. They are also not allowed to leave the company compound and are subject to fines if they were to quit.

How do we identify online scamming job advertisement?

- 1. Lack of or obscure information of the company
- 2. Easy or simple job requirements
- 3. Offering high/very attractive salary
- 4. Asking for personal data
- 5. The company promises to cover all departure costs and administration
- 6. Vague working systems and contracts
- 7. Some also charges registration fees





Example of online scamming job advertisement

Who are the target of the syndicates?



Most of the victims are male.



Age 18-35 years



Educated individuals (from high school, or equivalent, to masters degree holder)



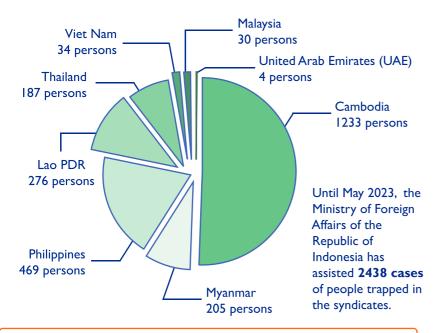
Technology-savvy



Most are from the middle-income families



Most have limited employment opportunities in their place of origin



In 2022, the Directorate for Protection of Indonesian Citizens (PWNI), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, has returned not less than 422 Indonesian citizens trapped in online scamming networks in 11 batches, including using one charter flight, under the government expenditure. However, among those who have been sent home, some have returned abroad to work in the same sector.

Locations with highest cases prevalence



Cambodia is the country with the highest prevalence of cases in Southeast Asia, with a 10-fold increase in the number of cases since 2021 to May 2023.

What do the Indonesian Missions Overseas do in the handling of these cases?

1

Receive Cases and Provide Immediate Assistance

- Develop a rescue strategy
- Coordinate with local authorities and stakeholders
- Shelter provision for victims
- Provide necessary psychological counseling and medical support

2

Case Identification

- Conduct interview with victims of trafficking (VOTs), if deemed possible
- Accurate data collection through screening form
- VOT-indicated individual analysis

3

Victim Assistance

- Assist victims throughout the investigation process conducted by the local authorities. This includes provision of interpreter, logistics and accommodation, and undertake negotiations with local authorities
- Assist victims in the trial process of litigation

IMPORTANT TO NOTE!



Make sure that the company has been registered as a legal entity and possesses a business/ operational license.



Carefully and thoroughly read your working contract. Make sure your responsibilities and entitlements are stated clearly.



Be wary of preposterous salary offers with easy and lenient job requirements.

File a case through:

peduliwni.kemlu.go.id

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