

Case 39

Contributor: Agenfor International (Ontario Superior Court of Justice)

Assessed case number: N/A

Title: R v Byron

- **What type of trafficking/exploitation is being analysed?**

Sexual THB	Forced Labour	Forced Criminal Activities	Minor Exploitation and forced adoption	Polycrime	Other (Specify the type)	All the aforementioned
X						

- **Please provide a brief description of the case (about 500 words)**

The victim and a friend traveled from Ontario to Quebec to meet some new people, including Jamie BYRON who paid and arranged for their travels. The victim was introduced to BYRON when she arrived in Quebec and stayed with him in an apartment with other individuals. The victim was lured in with the “lover boy” modus operandi, thinking that BYRON wanted to have a romantic relationship. The victim’s friend was able to leave, but the victim remained as she did not have money to return home. BYRON soon after told the victim that she belonged to him and would be working for him. The victim told BYRON she was only 17 years old and tried to resist; as a result, the victim was threatened and physically assaulted. BYRON intentionally damaged the victim’s identification documents and forced the victim to provide sexual services to a man for money. BYRON made this arrangement and kept the money the victim earned. The victim was subsequently moved throughout various cities in Quebec and Ontario over a two-month period during which time she was prostituted by BYRON and forced to have sex for money with more than 100 men.

- **Which is the *modus operandi* of the entities using cyber tools for trafficking and/or exploitation?**

MODUS OPERANDI	Yes/No	Description
Advertisement of the victim and the sexual services provided through the	Yes	BYRON took photos of the victim wearing minimal clothing in order to advertise her on the internet,



internet		determining the content of these advertisements.
Other		

• **Please provide more details on the perpetrator(s):**

Was/were the perpetrator(s) male or female?	Male
Which is the nationality of the perpetrator(s)?	Canadian
In which country was he/she, were they operating?	Canada
Was it an individual or a group?	Individual
Were there any preliminary indicators for early detection?	No
Which other aspects are important?	“The lover boy” technique used to lure women into thinking that they will be in an emotional relationship.

• **Which were the main characteristics of the victim(s)?**

THB Victims	Involved (x)	Please describe in more detail
Men		
Women		
Minors	X	The victim was a 17-year-old female
LGTBI		
Country of origin	X	Canada
Country of exploitation	X	Canada
Capturing Method	X	The victim believed that there would be a romantic relationship.
Coercion Method (debt-bonded, victims’ families threatened...)	X	Personal threats to the well-being of the victim and constant physical abuse/use of force to make sure that she complies with the demands of the perpetrator.
Handing over the passport	X	Intentional damage given to the victims’ identification documents.
Other		
Unknown		

• **What were the money laundering mechanisms used by traffickers?**

Money Laundering Mechanisms	Involved (x)	Please describe in more detail
Checks and money orders to anonymous post office boxes		



Back accounts in foreign countries		
Funnel account(s)		
Route cash from different cities		
Money Mules		
Hawala System		
Purchase of corporate vehicles or real estate		
Cash business entities such as restaurants or bars		
Other		
Unknown	X	

• **Has the case been tried or is it still under investigation?**

Legal Procedure	Yes/No	Please describe in more detail
Case with judgment	Yes	<p>Sentence Date: 21/08/2013, Jamie BYRON was found guilty of human trafficking specific and related offences by a judge. As a result, BYRON was sentenced to six years in prison; one of the longest sentences in Canada for human trafficking for sexual exploitation. This was the first conviction by a judge in Canada under the trafficking of a person under the age of 18 years offence.</p> <p>Sherloc Database: Case Law CAN016</p>
Under investigation	No	

• **What was the economic evidence of the crime?**

Economic evidence	Yes/No	Please describe in more detail
Money Transfers		
Banks Accounts		
Unjustified Financial Wealth		
Network Accountancy		
Financial Study of the Victim		
Wallet Cards		
Suspicious transactions		
Cryptocurrency exchanges or		



payments		
Cash payments		
Faster Payments Inwards (FPI) from the same entity		
Same mobile number or email address		
Hawala Payments		
Various bank accounts beneficiaries		
Others		
Unknown	X	

• **What activities in internet were considered suspicious?**

Internet Activities	Yes/No	Please describe in more detail
money transfers	No	
Purchases at online gaming sites	No	
Ads on Backpage.com or similar sites	Yes	BYRON took photos of the victim wearing minimal clothing in order to advertise her on the internet, determined the content of these ads.
Social media to recruitment	No	
Use of digital platforms to advertise deceptive job offers and to market exploitative services to potential paying customers	No	
Fishing potential victims by posting advertisements	No	
Use of video equipment to stream and broadcast exploitative services	No	
Used of multiple online profiles	No	
Use of specific apps: Please circle the relevant apps or add the name at the end if not listed	No	Ex: 1) For Advertising: Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, etc.; 2) For Recruitment and Communication: FaceTime, IMO, Messenger, Signal, Signal, Skype, Viber, WA, WeChat, Zalo, etc. 3) For Logistic: video-sharing platforms distributing essential logistic instructions, satellite images and photos, planned routes, Google Maps waypoints, GPS data, etc.;



		<p>Guidance, including mapping applications (Maps.me, Google Maps) for remotely guiding migrants across borders through tailor-made tutorials and YouTube videos containing detailed guides on how to navigate migrant routes, where to cross borders or buy fake documents, how to find smuggling hotspots, shelter or assistance, etc.;</p> <p>4) For Payments, online transfer of fees and documentation of payment proof via messaging services, hawala, etc.</p> <p>5) Countermeasures adopted by smugglers to anonymize their services, AppLocks, Secure Folders, burner applications, DiskDigger, private VPN connections, or clone apps, Fake GPS and modified display caller ID (Numberbook).</p> <p>6) Other:</p>
Others	No	

• **Other relevant information or important case specificities:**

		Please describe in more detail

