



Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office

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News Release

Two Massage Business Employees Arrested for Alleged Solicitation of Prostitution

Santa Maria — Several months ago, the Sheriff's Office received anonymous information that a massage business in Orcutt was engaged in prostitution. The Sheriff's Office launched an investigation into the business identified as Relax Station Spa located in the 4100 block of Orcutt Road in the unincorporated area of Santa Barbara County near Santa Maria. The investigation revealed that the business was advertising some of its services on backpage.com, a website used primarily for prostitution related activities. Sheriff's detectives conducted an undercover operation and found evidence indicating that the business and employees were involved in prostitution related crimes.

On December 21, 2016 at about 1:00 p.m., investigators from the Sheriff's Special Investigations Bureau, Sheriff's patrol deputies and a Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) agent served a search warrant at Relax Station Spa. Two female employees were located inside the business and were detained. They were identified as being 38-year-old Jinfeng Xu and 43-year-old Yaqing Yu. The women are both Chinese Nationals and their most recent residence is in the Los Angeles County area. They had only been in the Orcutt area a short time even though the business has been operating for about one year.

During the search of the business, investigators located additional evidence demonstrating that acts of prostitution were taking place within the business. Jinfeng Xu and Yaqing Yu were arrested and booked into the Santa Barbara County Jail for solicitation of prostitution. The investigation is on-going to determine if there will be additional charges and if more suspects are involved.

It should be noted that these types of illicit massage businesses often use people who are forced to do sexual acts against their will because they are indentured by a debt or are being abused. The Sheriff's Office will continue to conduct these types of operations as information is received to help minimize the amount of human trafficking taking place and to help end the cycle of abuse.

The Sheriff's Office wants to encourage members of the public to report any business that may be involved in prostitution by calling 805-681-4150 or to leave an anonymous tip, call 805-681-4171.



Jinfeng Xu



Jaqing Yu