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Anger over attacks 'excuse'

By ANNE BARBELIUK
WOMEN'S groups reacted angrily yesterday to suggestions by Tuen Mun police that sex attacks in the area are rising because of a lack of local prostitutes.

"The nearest vice establishments are quite far away — this is not the only reason but one of the con-

tributing factors behind the large number of sexual attacks," one police officer said yesterday.

But the spokesperson for the Hong Kong Federation of Women's Centres, Linda Wong Sau-yung, said such an excuse for the criminal actions of men was "ridiculous".

She said there was no excuse for the crime of sexual assault, and the police should not be offering any.

Tuen Mun's acting Assistant Police Commander, Mr Ronald Fok Man-kwan, agreed and said the shortage of prostitutes was "not a valid reason" for the attacks.