

Anti-vice sweep in west Kowloon nets 41

Eastern Express
Apr. 27, 1994

Maira Holden

Police have arrested more than 40 people in a 14-hour vice squad operation in west Kowloon.

The raid netted 32 women and nine men, arrested for vice and criminal offences, including pimping, prostitution, managing a vice establishment, managing an unlicensed massage parlour and breaching condition of stay.

The operation follows a raid last month that resulted in the arrest of two men thought to be triad society members and four Filipina women believed to be prostitutes.

More than 140 police officers from the vice squad, the regional missing persons unit and the police tactical unit carried out the operation, which began at noon on Monday and finished yesterday morning.

They raided 85 premises and questioned 100 people.

Of the women arrested, five were alleged illegal Chinese immigrants.

Also arrested were two Singaporean nationals, two Europeans, two Filipinas, four Thai women and 17 local women.

Vice squad officers have recently been investigating local gangs allegedly bringing foreign prostitutes into the territory on two-week tourist visas.

From November to January this year, 524 prostitutes were arrested in west Kowloon, mainly Thai, Filipina and Malaysian women.

A police spokesman would not say if yesterday's operation was linked to the tourist visa crackdown.

"The work in Kowloon west is always continuing and this raid is part of on-going operations," the spokesman said.