

## 24 arrested in Kowloon red light district

By Laura Beck

POLICE officers say they are winning the war on prostitution in Kowloon's red light district following the arrest of 24 people on vice charges yesterday.

In a continued push to keep the pressure on the sex-for-sale trade, more than 90 police officers raided clubs and parlours, which led to the arrest of 17 men and six women.

Chief Inspector Winnie Chiu of Sham Shui Po Division said the raid was successful and that constant pressure had hurt the flesh trade.

"I think we have made an impact and there are not as many vice establishments in the area now," Ms Chiu said.

"Their business is slack because of constant raids by the police, and we do give vice operators and customers a hard time."

Many of the arrested women are from Thailand, the Philippines and, increasingly, from northern China.

They are usually deported after being charged with violating conditions of stay.

Chief Inspector Paul Stripp, of the Police Tactical Unit Bravo Company, said: "The mere disruption factor is useful, and if a place is known as regularly raided by the police then it will lose its popularity with the clients."