

135 Orchids of Asia

In January 2019, New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft was charged with solicitation of prostitution after being caught on surveillance cameras at a Florida massage parlor called Orchids of Asia Day Spa. The incident happened during a major investigation into a suspected multimillion-dollar network of sex trafficking and organized crime in the U.S. and abroad.

This investigation found no proof of sex trafficking at Orchids of Asia, and Kraft's case has yet to be resolved. Regardless, I chose to highlight this particular incident because Robert Kraft's name and fame are so recognizable that I feel certain this national scandal has drawn the additional attention of many more people to the crime of human trafficking.

Prostitution has been called a victimless crime, which is debatable. But there's no doubt that sex trafficking is built upon victimization. The buying and selling of young women and girls involves entrapment and kidnapping, forced drug use, rape and enslavement.

My Orchids of Asia is endowed with weapons, dignity and self-reliance. She is no longer a victim – she is strong, lovely and fierce.