

Eight jailed for human trafficking

By NOOR ZAHRA

EIGHT people have been jailed for seven years each for being part of a human trafficking ring.

The High Criminal Court also found the defendants guilty of holding their victims captive and forcing them into prostitution during 2018 and 2019.

Five Filipina women, two Filipino men and a Bahraini policeman appeared in court yesterday where they earlier denied the charges.

They were also fined BD2,000 each and seven of the defendants, being expatriates, will be deported after completing their sentences.

"The defendants were found guilty of the charges due to sufficient evidence against them," read the court ruling.

"They lured the victims into Bahrain after promising them work as dancers in nightclubs before locking them up in apart-

ments in Manama and forcing them into the vice trade.

"One of the victims managed to flee with the help of one of the men she was forced to have sex with and reported her ordeal to the Philippines Embassy.

"The defendants made huge sums of 'haram' money and they took the vice trade as a profitable business.

"They then used the Filipina female defendants to trick the victims before locking them up and forcing them into the vice trade."

The 25-year-old Filipina victim previously broke down in tears as she came face to face with her captors in court.

She described how her captors locked her in an apartment and told her to have sex with men for money or pay BD3,500 for her freedom.

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