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The “Madam of Sullivan” Sentenced to 15 Years in Prison

Due to her potential responsibility in the crime of people trafficking, María Alejandra Gil Cuervo, the “Madam of Sullivan”, and her son were sentenced to 15 years in prison.

David Saúl Vela

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MEXICO CITY.- María Alejandra Gil Cuervo, known as the "Madam of Sullivan" and her son, Omar Sayún Gil, were both sentenced to 15 years in prison this Thursday, after proving their responsibility in the crime of people trafficking.

The sentence also included the application of a fine of 861,900 pesos each as reparations for damages and procedural costs.

According to investigations, this 64-year-old woman was the director of the Asociación Civil Pro Apoyo a Servidores (Aproase) (Civil Association for the Support of Servers), which was used as a façade organisation to cover up her unlawful activities.

As an activist and representative of Aproase, she even attended public events that took place in the Presidency and Senate of the Republic.

However, claims received by the Prosecutor of the capital city strengthened an investigation that ended in February 2014, with the arrest of this woman along with her son, who was also her main collaborator.

The enquiry revealed that Gil Cuervo coordinated approximately 200 women, some of them foreigners, who she forced into prostitution on James E. Sullivan Street, in the San Rafael neighbourhood.

She had been engaging in this activity for approximately 30 years, making unlawful earnings of around 300,000 pesos per day, as established in the case investigation, recorded in criminal case No 364/2013.

The woman was linked to people trafficking groups of Tlaxcala, a state where organised crime groups that recruit women and take them to the United States to become prostitutes can be found.

María Alejandra Gil Cuervo is currently imprisoned at the Women's Social Re-adaptation Centre of Santa Martha Acatitla, while her son Omar is imprisoned in the Men's East Preventive Prison.