



Headline: Scam syndicate tortures girl in Thailand
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The girl showing the injuries on her hand when she was "rescued".

PRESS DIGEST

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A TEENAGE Malaysian girl who was duped into working for a scam call syndicate in Thailand went through hell for not producing results.

She was given hellish training by syndicate members, which involved various forms of torture.

The ordeal of the victim, identified only as Miss Khoo, 19, in a *China Press* report yesterday did not end with her "rescue" from the syndicate's clutches in late October last year as she was held for close to three months by Thai authorities to help in their investigations.

On Jan 19, when she finally arrived

at the KL International Airport on her release along with a 20-year-old Malaysian man, who went through the same ordeal, a team from Bukit Aman whisked them away for more questioning.

In the following 12 days in police custody, the duo were taken to different police contingent headquarters for interrogation.

Upon her release on Jan 31, Khoo approached *China Press* to relate her ordeal.

Khoo, who took up the RM5,000 a month "call centre" job she got to know through WeChat, only knew she had fallen into the trap of the syndicate when she arrived in Thailand.

She said as she was not skilled in making scam calls, syndicate

members trained her with harsh punishment that included beating on her arms, buttocks and being choked.

They also locked her up in a room for hours with the air-conditioner in full blast, threw chairs at her and forced her to read texts for scam calls loudly in a room where loud music was played.

She said on one occasion she was beaten until she bled and she was forced to mop the bloodstained floor after the beating.

Khoo was among five Malaysians arrested when Thai police busted a scam call syndicate in Bangkok on Oct 27.

Also arrested was a Taiwan national believed to be the mastermind.