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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

NATALYA SHUVALOVA and
ELIZABETH SHUVALOVA,

Plaintiffs,

v.

JOSEPH RICHARD CUNNINGHAM and
DANIEL CUNNINGHAM,

Defendants.

Case No.: C10-2159 JSC

**ORDER RE: CLARIFICATION ON
REMAINING CAUSES OF ACTION
(Dkt. No. 105)**

Plaintiffs filed the initial Complaint in this case on May 19, 2010, alleging eighteen causes of action, two of which were brought under the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act ("TVPRA"), 18 U.S.C. §§ 1589, 1590, 1595. Defendants have filed – and the district court has ruled on – three separate motions to dismiss. (Dkt. Nos. 15, 30, 44, 59, 82, 92.) This case has been reassigned three times, most recently to this Court on June 11, 2012. (Dkt. Nos. 17, 70, 98.)

This Court held an initial case management conference on July 5, 2012. At the case management conference, the parties indicated there might be a disagreement as to which causes of action remain under the TVPRA. The parties were directed to meet and confer and inform the Court of the outcome. The parties were unable to reach an agreement on the

United States District Court
Northern District of California

1 matter, and on July 19, 2012 Plaintiffs filed a letter requesting clarification from this Court.
2 (Dkt. No. 105.) The Court is in receipt of Plaintiffs’ letter and issues the following order
3 addressing only the remaining causes of action under the TVPRA. The Court has relied on the
4 parties’ previous submissions in connection with the motions to dismiss and the district
5 courts’ rulings on those motions.

6 DISCUSSION

7 As a preliminary matter, the Court incorporates the factual summary of this case as set
8 forth in the district court’s previous orders on the various motions to dismiss. (Dkt. Nos. 30,
9 59, 92.) The Court need make no further factual findings for the purposes of this order.

10 Plaintiffs initially raised two separate causes of action under the TVPRA, 18 U.S.C. §§
11 1589, 1590. (Dkt. No. 1.) Section 1589 criminalizes forced labor and Section 1590
12 criminalizes trafficking into servitude. 18 U.S.C. §§ 1589, 1590. Section 1595, which
13 provides a civil cause of action for any violation under the TVPRA (including Sections 1589
14 and 1590), is the statute at issue here. Id. § 1595(a) (“An individual who is a victim of a
15 violation [under the TVPRA] may bring a civil action against the perpetrator . . . and may
16 recover damages”); see also Hernandez v. Attisha, No. 09-2257, 2010 WL 816160, at *2 (S.D.
17 Cal. Mar. 5, 2010) (holding that Section 1595 gives rise to a private cause of action for any
18 violation under Chapter 77 of Title 18 (the TVPRA)). Therefore, a party need only state a
19 claim under the TVPRA in order to bring a civil action under Section 1595.

20 According to Plaintiffs’ letter explaining the disagreement, “Defendants assert that
21 [Section] 1595 does not support a separate cause of action.” (Dkt. No. 105 at 1.) The Court is
22 unclear as to the parties’ disagreement. Much as a party may bring an action under 42 U.S.C.
23 Section 1983 based on a violation of a constitutional right, a party may bring an action under
24 Section 1595 based on a violation of a different provision of the TVPRA. Hernandez, 2010
25 WL 816160 at *2.

26 The district court’s Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Defendants’ first
27 motion to dismiss dismissed Plaintiffs’ claims based on a violation of Section 1590
28 (trafficking into servitude) (Second Claim for Relief) but gave Plaintiffs leave to amend.

1 (Dkt. No. 30 at 6.) The court also dismissed Plaintiffs' claim based on a violation of Section
2 1589 (forced labor) (First Claim for Relief) as to only one Defendant (Daniel Cunningham)
3 with leave to amend. (Dkt. No. 30 at 5.) Plaintiffs filed a First Amended Complaint raising
4 the same two claims under the TVPRA¹ and Defendants again moved to dismiss. (Dkt. Nos.
5 31, 44.) The district court's Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Defendants' second
6 motion to dismiss entirely disposed of Plaintiffs' claim under Section 1590 (Second Claim for
7 Relief) without leave to amend. (Dkt. No. 59 at 4.) The district court's order also dismissed
8 Plaintiffs' claim based on a violation of Section 1589 (First Claim for Relief) without leave to
9 amend as to Defendant Daniel Cunningham, but the Section 1589 claim survived as against
10 Defendant Joseph Cunningham. Indeed, the district court noted that the court had previously
11 concluded that the complaint's allegations were sufficient to state a forced labor claim against
12 Joseph Cunningham. (Dkt. No. 59 at 4.) The district court's subsequent order denying Dan
13 Cunningham's motion to dismiss for lack of subject matter jurisdiction also noted that the
14 "sole remaining federal claim is [Plaintiffs'] TVPRA claim against Joe." (Dkt. No. 92 at 2.)
15 Accordingly, Plaintiffs' claim premised on a violation of Section 1589 persists against
16 Defendant Joseph Cunningham. Thus, Plaintiffs' right to bring a civil action for damages
17 under Section 1595 remains.

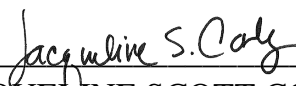
18 CONCLUSION

19 Based on the foregoing, the Court finds that Plaintiffs' First Claim for Relief survives
20 as to Defendant Joseph Cunningham. No other TVPRA claim remains in this action.

21 This order disposes of Docket No. 105.

22 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

23
24 Dated: July 31, 2012

25 
26 JACQUELINE SCOTT CORLEY
27 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

28 ¹ In the First Amended Complaint, Plaintiffs brought the Section 1589 claim against both Defendants and the 1590 claim against only Defendant Joseph Cunningham.