

National News**Schoolyard sweethearts blackmail teen-seeking johns**

A high school boy has been arrested for blackmail and his junior high school girl lover will shortly be reported to prosecutors after they preyed on men looking to use schoolgirl prostitutes, police said Wednesday.

Police said the 16-year-old part-time high school student arrested for blackmail is suspected to have coerced at least four men into giving him about 110,000 yen in cash.

He is alleged to have lured the men into his clutches through messages posted on a mobile phone matchmaking site of the type frequently used by schoolgirl prostitutes.

The boy denies the allegations against him.

"Guys into using schoolgirl prostitutes are the bad ones, so there's nothing wrong with taking money off them. I've done nothing wrong," police quoted him as saying.

Police are preparing to send documents to prosecutors accusing the boy's junior high school girl lover of blackmail.

Police said the specific case for which the boy was arrested involved the boy threatening a 29-year-old man in Tokyo's Kita-ku on March 15 until he received a cash payment of 30,000 yen.

Police said the boy's girlfriend used the matchmaking service to set up a date with a man. But when the man came along to the appointed place, the schoolboy confronted him, abused him for approaching his junior high school pupil girlfriend and demanded 50,000 yen in cash to keep quiet, police said.

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