

MOLKA



What is Molka?

Molka is the Korean term for hidden cameras or miniature spy cameras secretly and illegally installed, often in order to capture voyeuristic images and videos. Molka is an abbreviation of Molrae-kamera, which means a sneaky camera, which victims are snapped in their underwear, or up their skirts, even using the toilet.

The expression has been originated from the homonymous title of a Korean prank TV show, which existed from March 1991 to November 1992. This makes the term denote prank and spy camera at the same time.

In South Korea, spy cameras have proliferated in the 2010s and are most commonly installed in small holes or cracks in walls in locations such as women's public restrooms and motel rooms. The voyeuristic images and videos are sold online across various platforms, including popular social media sites like Twitter and Tumblr, without knowledge or consent of those on camera. 'Molka' can refer to both the actual cameras as well as the footage later posted online. South Korea's highly digitized society makes it easy to circulate Molka footage and difficult to remove once it has been circulated.

As the number of spy camera incidents has rapidly increased since 2011, Molka crimes have become a prominent point of feminist protest and #MeToo in South Korea. Pornography is illegal in South Korea and has been blocked online since 2007, driving Molka underground.

Women overwhelmingly make up the majority of victims of Molka crimes, while men make up the vast majority of perpetrators. Prosecution rates for Molka crimes are low, and punishment through fines or jail time is weaker in practice than stated in South Korean law. Many women and critics say that Molka crimes and the lack of action taken towards them are a product of distorted gendered violence against women in South Korea and the flaws in the law enforcement system.

In June 2021, the Human Rights Watch named South Korea as being the number one country in the world for spy cam use and its usage for digital sex crimes.



Does Molka happen in the UK?

The crime is punishable with up to 10 years in prison in South Korea. It is concerning that this Molka may soon spread to the wider world and indeed the UK.

In BBC Three's Stacey Dooley Investigates: *Spy Cam Sex Criminals*

The presenter speaks to victims and perpetrators of Molka in the country. Stacey meets family of young woman who was driven to take her own life. Grieving father whose daughter was filmed showering at work by a male colleague tells Stacey Dooley the thought of footage being shared online drove her to kill herself, she was due to get married when colleague made Molka shower videos of her at work.



Speaking about the late-night phone call he received informing them his daughter had jumped to her death, he broke down, admitting:



'I just thought she was badly injured. Well, I've lived 50 years, that feeling made me crazy, when I realised, she was on the 17th floor, I can't bear to think about it.'

'I was driving for two hours after the call. Her boyfriend saw her jump. We only heard about it, but he suffered the biggest trauma, so we keep telling him to forget our daughter, just to forget.'

Since 2010, Molka cases have jumped 600 per cent, with 6,800 cases reported in 2018.



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bbcthree/article/63de169c-dfbb-4b22-9da3-b5f3a55628a2>

How do I know if my camera is wireless?

Most spy camera detectors mainly offer 2 ways to find hidden cameras:

- Check for the reflective lights from the camera lens (like using a flashlight).
- Detect the RF broadcast of the camera. Typically, the detectors will beep when they find the signal, and give you audible alerts.

What is Molka scandal?

The scandal quickly encompassed allegations of rape and spy cams when singer and entertainer Jung Joon-young confessed to secretly filming himself having sex with women and sharing the videos, without their knowledge or consent. On March 14th the Supreme Court sentenced singers Jung Joon-young to five years in prison and Choi Jong-hoon to two years and six months in prison for raping unconscious women.



Jung Joon-young (born February 21, 1989) is a South Korean former singer-songwriter, radio DJ, host, actor, and television personality.

Choi Jong-hoon (born March 7, 1990) is a former South Korean musician and actor. He served as the leader, guitarist, and keyboardist of rock band F.T. Island.

How long do hidden cameras record?

Most hidden cameras have the recording time of 1 to 5 hours before the battery runs out of power, while some models can be plugged into electrical outlets and have 24/7 power. The things that depend on how long a hidden camera can record is the power of the battery and its memory (storage space).

Where do you put hidden cameras?

Fixed spycams have been found in public areas in Korea as early as 1997, where secret cameras were found to be installed in the ceiling of a Sinchon department store's women's restroom.



Hidden cameras come in different sizes and shapes, and they can look like almost everything. Hidden spy cameras can be as small as the pinhole or keychain, and they are often placed in our everyday devices, such as smoke detectors, adapters, etc.

Hidden cameras in common household items:

- Artificial plants. Place the camera in a flowerpot or a vase and use leaves as a concealer.
- Curtain rods.
- Small cameras placed high up are less likely to be detected.
- Entertainment centres.
- Hollow books.
- Medicine cabinets.
- Plush toys.
- Tissue boxes.

Prevention

SEOUL - A hidden camera-hunting squad has been introduced by the city government in South Korea's capital, Seoul, to combat unsolicited videos of women filmed in public and shared online, reported the BBC.

Police statistics show that such crimes in Seoul have risen from 990 in 2012, to 3,638 in 2015.

"Almost all victims are women in spy cam crimes, and for the victims there is emotional damage," Ms Hee Nam Myung told the BBC.

The 47-year-old works for one of the 25 hidden camera hunting teams on the lookout for secret cameras across Seoul. Between August and September, the squad - which was launched earlier this year - scanned more than 9,500 locations across the city but no spy cams were uncovered. The teams also distribute information leaflets and Ms Hee believes their campaign is raising awareness about Molka.

Once a Molka case is uncovered, a report is lodged with the police. If found guilty, offenders can face up to five years in prison or a maximum fine of 10 million South Korean won (about S\$12,077).

But Mr Koo believes that culprits behind secretly filmed videos and pictures won't stop until the government issues tougher penalties.

Support links and information:

<https://www.boltburdonkemp.co.uk/our-insights/posts/sexual-abuse-and-technology-are-you-safe/>

<https://twitter.com/bbcnewspr/status/1245670974550392832?lang=en-GB>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0872g59>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bIsHmTp_Vvs

