



Trafficking Watch

International Rescue Committee

Issue No. 9, December 2005

IN COMBATING TRAFFICKING, A LITTLE COOPERATION GOES A LONG WAY

Around the world, in source, transit, and destination countries, key players in the anti-trafficking field are developing coordinated approaches to address the effects of trafficking in their regions. At times these collaborative efforts produce unlikely partnerships, as the agencies that respond to trafficking cut across many public sectors, yet they provide the coordination that is necessary to tackle trafficking in a comprehensive way.

Israel: A National Nongovernmental Organization (NGO) Coalition

In Israel, NGOs are collaborating on the national level to pressure the government to take greater responsibility in assisting victims of trafficking. The coalition's agenda calls on the government to grant trafficking victims refugee status, to open up the state shelters to all victims regardless of whether they are willing to testify against their traffickers, to provide witness protection to victims who are willing to testify, and to

allocate resources for a special inter-offices task force.

Nomi Levenkron, of Israel's Hotline for Migrant Workers, was involved in the coalition in its early days and has worked extensively with victims of trafficking in Israel. Speaking about the external challenges that affect anti-trafficking work in Israel, Levenkron pointed out that most of the women trafficked into Israel are from the former Soviet Union. Since over 1 million Israeli citizens are ethnically Russian (roughly 1/6th of the population), identifying trafficking victims can be more difficult than in other destination countries, as victims blend in easily with the general population. The relationship between citizenship and religion creates additional challenges. In a country where the population is overwhelmingly Jewish, Levenkron explains that an insider-outsider dichotomy can work against flexible immigration policies and create resistance in issuing visas.

Tamar Adelstein, coordinator of the Israeli Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, spoke about the overall issues affecting anti-trafficking work



in Israel. Adelstein points out that the Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report, released annually by the U.S. government, is crucially important to anti-trafficking work in Israel. The Israeli government is greatly concerned with its relationship with the U.S., so the TIP report "works as an outside pressuring force, strengthening the claims and demands made by the coalition and other NGOs". Currently, the greatest challenges that

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Adelstein sees facing the coalition are internal. Negotiating between different member organizations and handling differences of opinion on broad issues such as prostitution and feminism take up much of the coalition's efforts.

The challenges that Adelstein identifies are common among coalitions. Terry Mizrahi, Chair of the Community Organizing and Planning Program at Hunter College School of Social Work, says that managing difference can be one of the most difficult obstacles to building successful coalitions. Having researched, written and taught about coalitions for 35 years, Mizrahi noted in an interview with Trafficking Watch that the process is critical to building and maintaining any successful collaboration. Many collaborative efforts make the same mistakes, but those that succeed often share common strategies. As Mizrahi states, success is "a lot about understanding the complexities of the coalition model. It's an organization of organizations. Managing difference, diversity and tension is key."

Mizrahi uses the concept of The Four "C's" - conditions, commitment, contributions, and competence - to assess the potential for the success of a coalition. In order for a collaborative effort to be successful, the *conditions* have to be right, the *commitment* has to be there, all coalition members must make some kind of *contribution* to the group, and there must be *competence* in leadership.

According to Mizrahi, some conditions that must be considered include the ability of the initiating groups to muster broad support, external political and economic real-

ities, the urgency of the social change goal, and the type and level of resources available to the participating organizations. The external political realities that Levenkron and Adelstein spoke about such as the TIP report and immigration policy illustrate this concept.

The United States: A City-Wide Initiative

For the past three years, the New York City Community Response to Trafficking (CRT) has been working with a cross-sector collaborative approach. Starting in 2002, NYC-CRT brought together community based organizations and criminal justice officials, including local police, federal agents, and prosecutors in order to work collaboratively on trafficking issues. Local NGOs originally identified the need for increased communication and initiated the formation of the CRT in an attempt to bolster the capacity of community groups and law enforcement to meet the needs of trafficked persons and engage in criminal investigations against perpetrators. Seeking a neutral party to steer the development of this collaboration, CRT solicited the services of Nick Sensley, a police officer and collaboration specialist.

The process of law enforcement and service providers working together has not always been easy. Florrie Burke, Senior Director, Anti-Trafficking Program at Safe Horizon and a member of the NYC-CRT from its inception, recalled the challenges for group members to understand each other's work and roles. "Sometimes assumptions were made," explained Burke. For example, representatives of law enforcement tended to have the expectation that service provid-

ers could provide safe and secure housing on short notice, even without knowing the details of a particular case. When housing couldn't be provided, representatives of law enforcement would ask "isn't this what you do?" In those cases, it was hard for NGOs to explain why it couldn't be done. "Everyone had to be careful to understand each other", explained Burke. "It was hard to have enough of a voice."

These types of challenges are foreseeable when cross-sector groups work together, particularly for the first time. Collaboration in any context, with a multi-disciplinary group, brings different perspectives. This creates the potential for conflict. "Conflict is OK if it is managed", explained Sensley in an interview. "Building trust and confidence in one another, viewing each other as part of a larger team, and building inter-dependency is key".

Managing and appreciating the different perspectives and capacities of coalition members is one of the most important roles of coalition leadership. One of Mizrahi's "C's", competence, refers to the combination of "task" and "process" skills that are needed for successful leadership in the context of collaborations. Helping diverse partners achieve consensus on goals and strategies, tactfully airing and mediating conflicts, and cultivating internal harmony among collaborators are competencies that effective coalition leaders must have. This principle was echoed by Sensley, who believes that the success of the NYC-CRT was possible because building relationships was put first.

Despite the challenges involved, Burke described the work the group

has done as "phenomenal". Knowing where to turn when an issue arises has been one of the major benefits of this type of collaboration. Illustrating the pay-off of this type of networking, Burke recounted a phone call she received a month and a half after a NYC-CRT meeting from a precinct that she had never worked with before. The officer, who was calling for help, had met Burke at the previous meeting. "If they hadn't met us, what would they have done?" asked Burke.

Southeast Asia: An International, Regional Collaboration of NGOs and Government

Asia Against Child Trafficking (Asia ACTs), the regional campaign against child trafficking in Southeast Asia, brings together NGO and government partners in seven countries: Philippines, Indonesia, Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos and the groups working with Burmese refugees and migrants in Thailand and on the border with Burma.

The Asia ACTs campaign, with its goal of reaching 5,000 villages, aims to integrate community-level initiatives with town, provincial, national and finally international efforts. Asia ACTs takes a grassroots approach, building from the local level up by starting with education of community organizations, leaders, parents and children in villages. Hundreds of people have been trained to become community educators against trafficking and Amihan Abueva, Coordinator for Southeast Asia, reports that almost 3,000 villages in the region have been reached. Asia ACTs is also working on the development of "Standards of Care" for Trafficked Children in

Southeast Asia based on international human rights principles.

In addition to community education campaigns, Asia ACTs is organizing a Child Protection Network- an alliance of health officers, social workers, judiciary, police and civil society representatives. This Network is being built from the village, city, provincial and national levels. Like the NYC-CRT, the Child Protection Network brings together diverse partners to accomplish its goals. In collaborations like these, all members may not have the same incentives for participating. Addressing the varying needs and incentives of collaboration members can help ensure that the group will function productively.

To maximize commitment to a coalition, Mizrahi recommends that opportunities for multiple levels of commitment be structured and the desired level of commitment be clarified along with how this commitment should be demonstrated. She also recommends that coalition leaders plan according to the "mix" of contributions that are required. Contributions can come in the form of resources, such as access to key individuals or a large constituency, expertise on the issues, media contacts, or political influence with the social change target; ideology, such as a vision for the collaboration, beliefs that fuel lasting commitment, or credibility; or power, such as money, a large organization or an important constituency.

Eastern Europe: An International, Regional Collaboration of NGOs

Beginning their work together in June 2004, Anti Corruption Anti

Trafficking Action (ACTA) is an international, regional collaboration of nongovernmental organizations in Eastern Europe advocating for a society without trafficking and corruption. ACTA's membership is comprised entirely of NGOs from Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Moldova.

Established with the multiple aims of prevention, protection and the implementation and monitoring of legislation, ACTA focuses on activities that strengthen local and regional civil society organizations. ACTA's agenda includes the following issues: case monitoring; promoting preventive education and public awareness; advocacy efforts to enact legislative reforms; and providing consistent, unified victim assistance and protection programs.

Working in Eastern Europe creates a distinct set of issues for ACTA to deal with. Over email, Aleksandra Jovanovic of ASTRA, an ACTA member NGO in Serbia, identified several issues that affect anti-trafficking work in the Balkans. The region is marked by militarization and economic transition. High poverty rates are prevalent throughout the area and women in particular experience higher degrees of unemployment and marginalization at poorly paid jobs. Jovanovic points to inequality in wages, promotions and professional development opportunities that continue to leave women more economically vulnerable than men. These are prime examples of the conditions that Mizrahi urges coalition leadership to assess.

The challenges that ACTA is facing are both distinct to Eastern Europe

and experienced in many regions of the world where NGOs are fighting for greater inclusion in creating anti-trafficking strategies and policies in partnership with government. In advocating for greater collaboration among organizations, Javanovic explained, "we all must realize that trafficking and corruption problems are regional in nature and not the isolated problem of any particular country".

As public awareness and outrage around human trafficking continues to grow, collaborative efforts are likely to play an increasingly important role in service provision, advocacy and policy setting. Anti-trafficking partnerships around the world are facing common challenges but also have the strength that can only be found in working collaboratively and pooling expertise and resources. As Sensley commented, "a strategic, multi-disciplinary, collaborative approach to dealing with human trafficking" is most effective. His final advice, that a "victim-centered approach" be employed, must surely be at the core of all anti-trafficking collaborations.

Thanks to Terry Mizrahi, Tamar Adelstein, Nomi Levenkron, Nick Sensley, Florrie Burke, Amihan Abueva and Aleksandra Jovanovic for their participation in this article.

ASSESSMENT OF U.S. GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

In September 2005, the U.S. Government released its third annual evaluation of domestic anti-trafficking initiatives, entitled, "Assessment of U.S. Government Activities to Combat Trafficking in Persons." This report, produced in collaboration with seven government agencies: Department of Justice, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of State, Department of Labor, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Agriculture and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), provides an overview of each agency's progress in combating human trafficking during fiscal year 2004.

At the center of U.S. anti-trafficking efforts are two pieces of federal legislation: the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000 and the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA) of 2003. These acts establish measures to strengthen protection, prosecution and prevention activities by various

government agencies as well as law enforcement and social service providers. The report details current government activities in several key program categories and presents numbers to quantify

programmatic successes. While these numbers show steady growth in the scope of anti-trafficking programs as compared to previous years, they also demonstrate how few trafficking victims are being reached in comparison to the total estimated number of victims in the U.S.

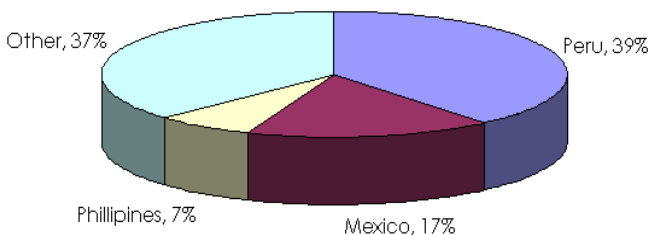
Adults	144
Minors	19
TOTAL	163
TOTAL since 2000	611

Benefits and Services

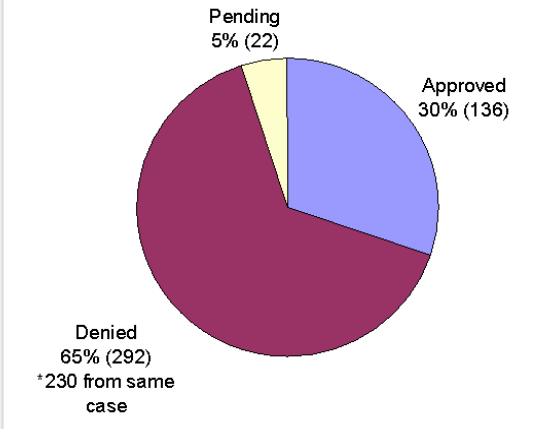
HHS and ORR Programs

The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) issues certification letters to adults and eligibility letters to minors who are found to be victims of "severe forms of trafficking in persons". ORR issued 163 certification letters in fiscal year 2004: 144 to adults, and 19 eligibility letters to minors. This brings the total number of letters issued in the past four fiscal years to 611. The largest concentrations of victims were found in California, Arizona, Illinois, Texas and New York. The countries of origin for the greatest number of victims were Peru (39 percent), Mexico (17 percent), and the Philippines (7 percent), and 65 percent of the victims were women. Once certification letters have been issued, recipients are eligible for federally-funded services and benefits to the same extent as refugees.

Origins of Trafficking Victims in U.S.



T Visa Approvals (FY2004)



Discretionary Grants

In addition to an emphasis on direct services, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has prioritized collaboration by utilizing discretionary grants to create a network of service organizations available to assist victims of severe forms of trafficking. In an effort to improve services, HHS will be encouraging its grantees to develop collaborative relationships with law enforcement in order to draw on the strengths of both sectors.

Department of Justice

The Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) within DOJ's services is primarily focused on meeting the acute needs of trafficking victims before they are certified or eligible for federally-funded benefits. Although few organizations have the capacity to serve pre-certified victims, an OVC grant program has enabled services to be provided to 357 victims in fiscal year 2004. Additionally, OVC grantees provided training on trafficking to 17,285 law enforcement officials, prosecutors, social service providers, doctors, clergy members and other community members.

Reaching More Victims

The report acknowledges the disparity between estimated number of trafficking victims in the U.S. and the number who have been found and assisted. Recognizing the difficulty involved in reaching victims of trafficking, HHS has begun an outreach program, the "Rescue and Restore Victims of Human Trafficking Campaign", in order to encourage victims to come

forward. The program has three premises: it is victim-centered; it targets intermediaries (people and institutions that come into contact with the victims); and it is community-based. Additionally, through a contract with Covenant House, HHS established a toll-free national Human Trafficking information and referral hotline that received more than 1,600 calls in the last six months of fiscal year 2004.

Immigration Benefits

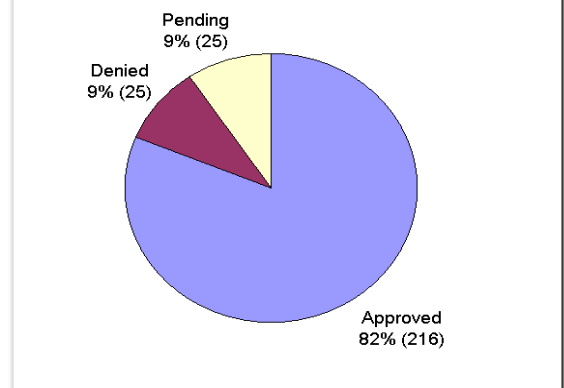
The TVPA created two immigration benefits for victims of severe forms of trafficking: "continued presence" which authorizes a victim to remain in the U.S. temporarily if they are determined to be a potential witness for a federal investigation, and "T non-immigrant visas" which are available to victims who are in the U.S. as a result of their trafficking and comply with reasonable requests to assist in the investigation or prosecution of acts of trafficking. In fiscal year 2004, 136 T non-immigrant visas were approved for applicants, 292 were denied (of which 230 stem from one case), and 22

remained pending. In addition, 216 T non-immigrant visas were approved for qualified family members of principle dependants, 25 were denied, and 25 remain pending. By September 30th, 2004 the Department of Homeland Security had approved 484 continued presence requests.

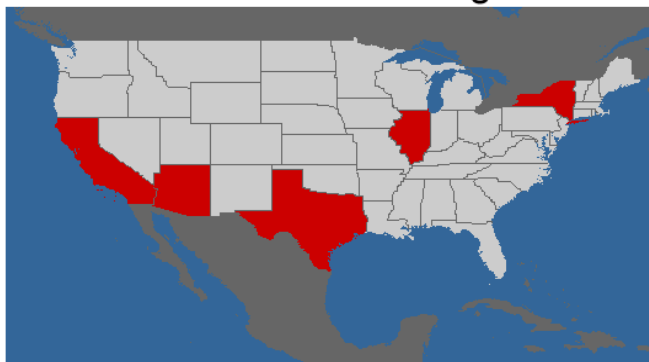
Investigations and Prosecutions

In fiscal year 2004, the Department of Justice (DOJ) filed 29 human trafficking cases (only 33 had been filed in the previous three years combined), and initiated prosecution against 59 traffickers. To improve the effectiveness of investigations and prosecutions, the interagency Human Smuggling and Trafficking Center (HSTC) was created. HSTC brings together federal agency representatives from policy, law enforcement, intelligence, and diplomatic areas to work together on issues related to the referral of trafficking victims to relevant service providers or interagency organizations. DOJ also undertook a Trafficking Taskforce initiative to form 21 multidisciplinary task forces in order to tackle trafficking in areas of known concentration. These task forces will be charged with investigating criminal organizations, rescu-

Family T Visa Approvals (FY2004)



States with Most Trafficking Victims



California, Arizona, Illinois, Texas & New York

ing victims, and holding perpetrators accountable.

International Grants

As evidenced by the report, the U.S. government is prioritizing anti-trafficking activities abroad in order to help in the prevention of trafficking before victims arrive in the U.S. In fiscal year 2004, the U.S. government supported 251 international anti-trafficking programs, with contributions totaling \$82 million which benefited 86 countries. Examples of these programs include: an International Organization for Migration program to supply return and reintegration assistance to Afghan victims; a Fund for Justice and American Bar Association program to train criminal justice officials in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania to promote regional cooperation on trafficking; and a Tartu Child Support Center project in Estonia providing seminars on trafficking to 12th grade students in the city of Tartu.

Training

DOJ and DHS have focused on outreach and training to compliment their investigation and prosecution efforts. Domestically, the Bureau of

Justice Assistance (BJA) has funded the development of a standard curriculum to be used by task forces and staff from the Civil Rights Division. Using this curriculum, Staff conducted more than 50 training sessions around

the U.S. The U.S. government is also conducting international outreach including: an assessment of trafficking problems in Mexico; organizing and participating in international conferences on trafficking; and the involvement of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials in cooperative programs with their foreign counterparts in local law enforcement.

Recommendations for Action

This year's report outlines several recommendations that would improve government efforts to combat trafficking. 1) The U.S. government and partners needs to improve their ability to find and rescue victims, 2) the U.S. government should conduct more research to determine an accurate figure for the scope of trafficking in the U.S., 3) the U.S. government should measure the impact of its anti-trafficking activities domestically and internationally, and 4) the U.S. government should ensure the effective functioning of its task forces and encourage states to adopt their own anti-trafficking laws.

With this year's "Assessment of U.S. Government Activities to Combat Trafficking in Persons", there is rea-

son for optimism, as the numbers of victims assisted and traffickers prosecuted has continued to rise. As the report highlights, however, the disparity between the estimated number of trafficking victims in the U.S. and the number that actually receive services gives federal and state government and their NGO partners reason to redouble efforts in the coming year.

STATE LEGISLATION

Illinois Legislation

The 94th General Assembly of the Illinois legislature unanimously passed a law criminalizing trafficking in persons and involuntary servitude earlier this year. The law newly defines Forced Labor and Services, which involves labor or services performed for one person and obtained or maintained through schemes to cause or threaten serious harm, physical restraint or threat of such, abuse of the legal process, controlling the victim's identifying documents, blackmail, or causing or threatening financial harm or exerting financial control over the victim. Each of these specified means of trafficking carries different sentencing levels when incorporated into the crime of Involuntary Servitude, ranging from the highest possible penalties when the trafficker causes or threatens physical harm to the lower level of felony when intimidation, financial harm, or control are used to obtain the victim's labor.

The provisions criminalizing Involuntary Servitude of a Minor, which

NEWSBRIEFS

USAID Funds Vietnam's Anti-Human Trafficking Program

*Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam
October 2005*

The US Agency for International Development (USAID) will provide US \$200,000 for a program to prevent human trafficking in Vietnam's Mekong Delta.

The three-year program, which kicked off last September, aims to prevent at least 900 young girls and women in the Mekong Delta provinces of An Giang and Dong Thap from entering the sex trade. It will also help others reintegrate back into their communities in Vietnam.

U.S. To Deny Aid to Five Countries under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act

*Washington, DC
September 2005*

The White House has determined that Burma, Cambodia, Cuba, North Korea and Venezuela have failed to comply with the minimum standards to combat trafficking set out in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000. The United States will deny assistance to these five countries ranging from participation in educational and cultural exchange programs to certain non-humanitarian, non-trade related funding until they make significant efforts to meet these standards. The TVPA, with its emphasis on prevention, protection, and prosecution, is the most comprehensive U.S. law to address traf-

relates only to trafficking for commercial sexual activity, and Trafficking of Persons for Forced Labor or Services closely mirrors the federal definition of human trafficking. This will enable federally funded service programs to continue providing services as these state crime victims will also be considered victims of the federal law. Various sentencing enhancements also increase the length of sentence for those convicted under this statute if sexual assault or extreme violence was used, if the victim sustained bodily injury, or if the case involved more than 10 victims. The law does not specifically reference psychological coercion, although many forms of such coercion are included.

The Illinois legislature also created provisions that specifically redress the needs of trafficking victims. The State Department of Human Services is instructed that it may provide or fund emergency services to victims of trafficking, and restitution is mandatory under the law. The legislation further requires that any law enforcement official who is working on an investigation under this section shall certify in writing to the required federal government agencies that potential trafficking victims are cooperating with the investigation. This type of certification is necessary to a trafficking victim receiving eligibility for federal benefits and services, including immigration relief.

The law goes into effect in January 1, 2006.

New Jersey Legislation

This spring, the New Jersey legislature passed an anti-human trafficking bill seeking to criminalize human trafficking within its borders. First,

the bill defines forced labor and services as a person knowingly providing or obtaining the labor or services of another by various means. The means listed include causing or threatening serious bodily harm, physical restraint, abuse of the legal process, misuse or withholding a persons identifying documentation, coercion as defined under the NY criminal code, and causing or threatening to cause financial harm to the victim. Similar to other state statutes, the New Jersey law attaches different criminal and sentencing levels according to the severity of the means used.

The law also criminalizes the sexual servitude of a minor and trafficking of persons for forced labor or services, with both definitions closely tracking federal law. Restitution is also provided for under the law. The trafficking of persons violations are all crimes of the first degree, and thus carry sentences of 10 to 20 years, or a fine or both.

The bill also requires the Attorney General and the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services to issue a joint report to the Governor and Legislature regarding the implementation and success of the bill. The report on the first year's progress will include criminal prosecutions under the bill and the use of the criminal justice and social services systems to assist victims of human trafficking. The report will also include detailed recommendations on what steps should be taken to improve these new programs. As the law went into effect in April of 2005, a report should be issued after April of 2006.

ficking in persons both internationally and domestically.

In its annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report, the U.S. Department of State evaluates the efforts of foreign governments to fight human trafficking. The TIP report divides countries into three tiers. Tier One countries fully meet the requirements outlined in the TVPA. Tier Two countries do not fully meet the requirements but are working towards compliance. Tier Three countries do not meet the requirements and have not made efforts to improve, and therefore could face restrictions in American aid.

In the 2005 TIP report, 14 countries were identified as Tier Three: Bolivia, Burma, Cambodia, Cuba, Ecuador, Jamaica, Kuwait, North Korea, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Togo, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela. Six of these 14 countries, Bolivia, Jamaica, Qatar, Sudan, Togo and the United Arab Emirates, have since taken actions that prevented the U.S. from considering sanctions. They have been placed on the "Special Watch List" and will be re-evaluated in six months. Three of the 14 countries, Ecuador, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, have received presidential waivers for sanctions "in the national interest of the United States", and will be reassessed within six months.

The Presidential Determination with Respect to Foreign Government's Efforts Regarding Trafficking in Persons is available at:

<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/prsrl/2005/53777.htm>

Swedish Court Charges 16 with Human Trafficking

*Sweden
November 2005*

Sixteen people were charged with human trafficking and procuring in a Swedish court for trafficking two Slovakian women and forcing them into prostitution. The 16 were citizens of Sweden, Slovakia, Serbia-Montenegro, Syria and Bosnia-Herzegovina. In March and April, the two Slovakian women were allegedly recruited in their country and brought to Sweden, where they were sold by two of the accused. According to the charges, during the first two weeks of April, the women were forced to prostitute themselves and had their passports confiscated along with most of the money they made.

IOM Warns Against Human Trafficking in Quake Areas

*Islamabad, Pakistan
November 2005*

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has warned the Pakistani government that people in the quake-hit areas are in a situation where they may sell their children, especially girls, in order to survive. They said the financial constraints of the already destitute families could lead them to sell their children for monetary benefit. "The situation is ripe for large scale human trafficking from these areas," an IOM representative was quoted as saying. The IOM asked the government to take immediate steps to stall the situation.

IOM representatives who met Interior Secretary Syed Kamal Shah warned that the extreme financial

pressure on the majority of the affected families is a potential scenario for human trafficking.

Ricky Martin Joins Fight Against Human Trafficking

*Geneva, Switzerland
November 2005*

Pop star Ricky Martin is joining with Geneva-based NGO International Organization for Migration (IOM) to combat human trafficking in Colombia. Martin will appear in TV commercials that focus on the threats that trafficking present for Colombian children, and publicize a telephone hotline that will provide assistance in the country. The commercials are expected to begin airing next year. The singer will also provide support through the Ricky Martin Foundation, which he founded 10 years ago. The foundation helps with a range of child-focused projects, and its People for Children project has previously been active in anti-trafficking programs.

In the UK, Mounting Pressure on the Government to sign European Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings

*London, England
December 2005*

On December 1st, five Albanian men were sentenced in London to a total of 63 years for trafficking women to the United Kingdom from Lithuania.

Brothers Agran and Flamur Demarku were each sentenced to 18 years in prison, Bedari Demarku, was sentenced to eight years, and Izzet Fejzullahu to 14 years for trafficking women and girls from Lithua-

nia to the UK and forcing them into prostitution. A fourth brother, Xhevair Demarku, pleaded guilty before the trial and was sentenced to five years in prison.

Although this is an important step forward in prosecutions of traffickers, protection for victims of trafficking in the UK remains in critical need of reform. Human rights advocates including Anti-Slavery International, Amnesty International, ECPAT UK, and UNICEF are urging the UK Government to sign the Council of Europe's European Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings. The Convention provides temporary residence permits to victims who would be endangered by returning home and to those who assist with prosecutions. To date, eight governments have signed the Convention, which is the first international law that specifically protects trafficked people's rights.

Despite public statements in support of the convention's aims, the UK government has not decided whether to sign, citing fears that the system could be abused by people making false claims in attempt to remain in the country.

Countries of Baltic Region Unite Against Human Trafficking

*Saariselkä, Finland
December 2005*

The countries of the Baltic region are joining forces in their effort to eradicate human trafficking. On December 1st, official representatives of the countries, meeting in Saariselkä, Finland, announced that they would launch a specific project to combat human trafficking focused

on Chinese children. Finland will chair the group for this year and 2006. The countries of the region have a history of working together and have a common task force that works to combat organized crime.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



WASHINGTON
ANTI-TRAFFICKING
RESPONSE
NETWORK

The Washington Anti-trafficking Response Network

The Washington Anti-trafficking Response Network (WARN) is a coalition of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that provide comprehensive services to pre-certified victims of human trafficking in Washington State. The Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crimes (DOJ/OVC) recognized a dearth of services for pre-certified victims of trafficking (VOT) in Washington State and therefore WARN was established in November 2004 to address this deficiency. The need for a service provision network was considered especially urgent as Washington State shares an international border, has two of the busiest ports in the United States, and has substantial needs for large quantities of agricultural migrant labor- all features which increase vulnerability to human trafficking activity.

WARN has provided comprehensive services in over 25 languages and dialects to a diverse group of victims

originating from Latin America, Eastern Europe, Africa, and Asia, The four key partners of WARN are the International Rescue Committee, the Asian Pacific Islander Women and Family Safety Center, the Refugee Women's Alliance, and Consejo Counseling and Referral Services, and close working relationships have also been formed with several agencies that provide specialized services such as medical care, mental health counseling, and legal services for victims.

In large part, WARN's effectiveness is due to excellent relationships with local, federal, and immigration law enforcement. Several WARN staff members participate on the Washington Advisory Committee on Trafficking, a DOJ funded task force, and WARN staff were appointed to a state work group that is developing protocols for Washington State agencies that serve human trafficking victims. Training and public awareness campaigns are at the core of WARN's strategy and in 2005 alone, WARN provided over 60 trainings and outreach activities to law enforcement, social service providers, religious organizations, university students, medical practitioners, and community groups.

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Free the Slaves

Free the Slaves is a non-profit organization dedicated to ending slavery worldwide. Free the Slaves employs the following guiding principles: all people have the right to be free from any form of slavery; all people who are or have been enslaved should have the opportunity to realize their full potential, the views of all people involved in eradicating slavery should be respected, sustainable solutions that prevent adverse repercussions for those we aim to assist must be supported; and guidance must be sought from agencies around the world that are carrying out local and regional anti-slavery programs. Free the Slaves' strategy is rooted in the belief that access to economic opportunities, health services, universal education, and strong rule of law would reduce the vulnerability of poor people to enslavement.

The work of Free the Slaves takes many forms including: funding the work of grassroots anti-slavery organizations and enabling local movements to learn from each other; raising awareness of contemporary slavery by providing engaging ways to learn about the subject; promoting slave-free trade by partnering with businesses and NGOs to eradicate slavery from product supply chains and build a consumer movement that chooses slave-free goods; working with policy-makers to enforce

effective anti-slavery and anti-trafficking laws, and where necessary, draft new legislation; and researching modern slavery in order to determine its scope and nature, and to formulate targeted ways to combat it.

Since Free the Slaves' founding in 2000, the organization has accomplished many notable goals including helping develop the Harkin-Engel (Cocoa) Protocol to eradicate slavery in the production of chocolate; writing the groundbreaking Hidden Slaves report with researchers from UC Berkeley; and producing *Dreams Die Hard*, a compelling documentary about domestic slavery. For more information about these accomplishments, visit <http://freetheslaves.net>. Free the Slaves has also been helping its partner organizations around the world ensure that victims of slavery become free from bondage and remain free for the rest of their lives. For information about the recent rescue of eighteen children in Ghana, please see the Free the Slave's blog: http://freetheslaves.net/blog/archive/2005/11/18_children.fre.php

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RESOURCES

TRAINING VIDEO: Sex Trafficking: Looking for Indicators

Vista, CA

A law enforcement training video made in Vista will be available to law enforcement agencies throughout the nation as part of the effort to stop human trafficking.

The 21-minute film was financed with some of the money from a three-year \$448,134 federal grant obtained by the San Diego County Sheriff's Department to start a regional human trafficking task force in this county.

The scenes depicting a traffic stop, an incident of domestic violence and a brothel raid outline signs that law enforcement officers could spot to identify people being brought into the United States for forced labor or prostitution.

Stop Trafficking! Anti Trafficking Newsletter

This edition focuses on how consumer behavior and corporate decisions that improve the "bottom line" fuel human trafficking globally and hurt workers locally.

<http://homepage.mac.com/srjeanschafersds/stoptraff/stoptraff311.pdf>

Website:

<http://www.oas.org/atip>

The Organization of American States' Anti-Trafficking in Persons Unit has launched a comprehensive website of information and resources on trafficking in persons in the Western Hemisphere. Features include newsclips, reports and publications, links, events of interest, information on OAS initiatives, and country-specific data, resources and legal information. Content is primarily in English, but will be available in Spanish in early 2006. For more information, visit the website at <http://www.oas.org/atip>. Announcements and information should be directed to atip@oas.org.

Human Trafficking House Party Organizing Kit

Amnesty International has created a new downloadable organizing kit - based on the Lifetime mini-series, Human Trafficking - that can be used to bring human rights education to your community. The kit includes guidelines for planning and hosting a house party, discussion guides, fact sheets and more. To watch a clip of the mini-series, download the organizing kit, or learn more about Amnesty International's please visit the following links.

Learn more about Amnesty International's human rights concerns on trafficking:

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/stopviolence/trafficking/background.html>

To download the kit:

http://www.amnestyusa.org/stopviolence/trafficking/pdf/houseparty_toolkit.pdf

Anti-Trafficking Trainings Available

Iselin Consulting, specialist consultants in international law enforcement and cooperation projects, offers 3 training programs for organizations engaged in anti-human trafficking work.

1)"Lilya 4Real" seminars are human rights focused anti-human trafficking seminars based around the major feature film Lilja 4Ever. These seminars are appropriate for a range of target audiences and are conducted as 2-3 days sessions for senior staff and policy-makers, or as 1-day trainings for frontline workers.

2)"Fundamentals of Anti-Trafficking" is an awareness-raising program for general service law enforcement officers.

3)"Essential Anti-Human Trafficking" is designed for law enforcement specialists in the field who deal with complex, technically difficult cases. The training goes into the mind of traffickers, the victims and the of law enforcement.

For more information visit:

http://www.iselinconsulting.com/human_trafficking.htm

Salvation Army Anti-Trafficking Training

The Salvation Army has a national campaign to train Salvation Army staff on 1) how to recognize human trafficking victims, 2) and how to safely interview potential trafficking victims, and 3) how to provide social services to rescued trafficking victims.

The training is intended for Salvation Army staff, but it is open to other interested social service providers. Trainings will be scheduled in various locations around the U.S. beginning in December Persons interested in learning about human trafficking and how to provide comprehensive services to victims are encouraged to attend. For more information, please contact Michael A. Smith, Ph.D., LCSW, National Consultant for Trafficking Survivor Services at 703-684-5150, or via email at Michael_Smith@usn.salvationarmy.org

Hidden Victims: Evaluating Protections for Undocumented Victims of Human Trafficking

A New Report by the American Immigration Law Foundation

In the United States, human traffickers most frequently exploit the desperation of undocumented immigrants as a means of obtaining victims. With the passage of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), undocumented immigrants who are victims of "severe" forms of human trafficking may be eligible for temporary non-immigration status and a limited number of public benefits. Despite this, the number of people who have actually received protection under the law is relatively low, especially when compared to estimates of how many trafficking victims are in the United States.

"Hidden Victims" presents the following findings:

- Estimates of the number of trafficking victims vary widely.

- A survey of 131 reported incidents of human trafficking in the United States between 1998 and 2003 revealed that 46 percent involved forced sexual exploitation, while the remaining 54 percent involved forced labor exploitation.
- In the four-year period from March 2001 to mid-May 2005, the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) certified a total of only 752 trafficking victims and only 491 received T-visas-the most critical protection provided under the TVPA.
- The discrepancy between the number of trafficking victims estimated to be in the United States and the total number of victims receiving protection under the TVPA is the result of: (1) the imperfect nature of trafficking estimates; (2) misidentification of victims by law enforcement; (3) the conditional nature of victim protections; and (4) overly restrictive eligibility requirements for the T-visa.

The full report can be viewed at:
<http://www.aifl.org>

Trafficking and Prostitution Reconsidered: New Perspectives on Migration, Sex, Work, and Human Rights, Edited by Kamala Kempadoo

A new compilation of writings on human trafficking.

To order, visit:
<http://www.paradigmpublishers.com/>

1-59451-096-2 (Hardcover) \$73.00
 1-59451-097-0 (Paperback) \$25.95

Trafficking and prostitution are widely believed to be synonymous, and to be leading international crimes. This collection argues against such sensationalism and advances carefully considered and grounded alternatives for understanding transnational migrations, forced labor, sex work, and livelihood strategies under new forms of globalization. The authors maintain that what we are witnessing today is an increase in the violation of the rights of freedom of movement, decent employment, and social and economic security. The problem of sexual exploitation is viewed in the larger context of a global capitalism based on forced labor.

TRAFFICKING WATCH is a quarterly newsletter that reports primarily on news and developments relevant to human trafficking in the United States and also includes a compilation of resources drawn from diverse sectors and fields at the local, national, and international levels to promote the exchange of information, strategies, and good practices in order to effectively combat trafficking.

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Send comments, suggestions or announcements to: listserv@ftp.theIRC.org. To subscribe to Trafficking Watch, send an email to: listserv@ftp.theIRC.org In the body of the message type: Subscribe traffickingwatch-list Firstname Lastname

Trafficking Watch can be downloaded from the IRC website (<http://www.theIRC.org>)

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The International Rescue Committee serves refugees and communities victimized by oppression or violent conflict worldwide. Founded in 1933, the IRC is committed to freedom, human dignity, and self-reliance. This commitment is expressed in emergency relief, protection of human rights, post-conflict development, resettlement assistance, and advocacy.



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