

("watch list" AND ((US OR "U.S" OR "United States" OR "State Department" OR "Department of State") W/p ("human trafficking report" OR "trafficking in persons report" OR "TIP report" OR "report on trafficking in person" OR "report on human trafficking")) AND NOT blacklist AND NOT tier AND NOT watchlist)

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The International Herald Tribune

June 21, 2012 Thursday

## **17 countries top list for trafficking; U.S. report adds Syria to group of governments that could face sanctions**

**BYLINE:** ADESHINA EMMANUEL

**SECTION:** NEWS; Pg. 6

**LENGTH:** 483 words

**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

### **ABSTRACT**

The 2012 report on illegal immigration added Syria to the list of governments that could face sanctions for doing too little to fight forced labor or prostitution.

### **FULL TEXT**

While some governments are making significant strides to end modern-day slavery, the State Department has singled out 17 others that it says are "treating victims as criminals or ignoring them entirely."

In its 2012 **report on human trafficking**, issued Tuesday, the department added Syria to the list of countries that could face **U.S.** sanctions for not doing enough to combat forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation. The report said the violence in Syria had weakened security and made it difficult to monitor anti-trafficking efforts.

The other countries that the report said were falling well short of standards and not making substantial efforts to improve them were Algeria, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, Kuwait, Libya, Madagascar, Papua New Guinea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

Thirty-three of the 185 countries reviewed complied fully with laws geared toward ending human trafficking. Forty-two others were placed on a **watch list** indicating that, besides falling short of standards, they either have a particularly large number of victims or cannot provide convincing proof that they are making strong efforts to fight trafficking.

The State Department estimates that 27 million people worldwide, most of them women and children, are victims of human trafficking, forced into labor or prostitution.

"Ultimately, this report reminds us of the human cost of this crime," Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said. "Traffickers prey on the hopes and dreams of those seeking a better life, and our goal should be to put those hopes and dreams back within reach."

The report said governments' concerns about illegal immigration had sometimes hampered their response to trafficking. "Trafficking indicators are missed and victims are wrongly classified as illegal migrants and criminals," the report said.

The actress Jada Pinkett Smith, who attended the report's release, said she had been inspired to lend her voice to the fight against trafficking after her daughter, Willow, 11, saw the video about the Ugandan warlord Joseph Kony that became an Internet sensation this year.

17 countries top list for trafficking; U.S. report adds Syria to group of governments that could face sanctions The  
International Herald Tribune June 21, 2012 Thursday

"When she realized there were children being trafficked as child soldiers," Ms. Smith said, "she got on the Internet and started to do research and realized there were actually kids her age that were being trafficked into sex slavery, and it just surprised her, and she came to me and she said, 'Mommy, did you know that there were girls being trafficked who are my age?'"

"I want people to just be more aware that it exists," she added. "I'm ashamed to say that it took my 11-year-old daughter to bring it to my awareness."

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CBC News

June 20, 2012 Wednesday 4:52 PM GMT

## Modern-day slavery ensnares millions worldwide

**BYLINE:** CBC News

**LENGTH:** 549 words

Millions of men, women and children around the world were victims of modern slavery last year, according to a new U.S. report of human trafficking.

While data from the U.S. Department of State cataloguing the number of trafficking investigations, prosecutions, convictions and sentences have identified more than 42,000 victims worldwide, the International Labour Organization estimates that an even greater number, 20.9 million, are caught up in the modern slave trade at any time.

The annual **Trafficking in Persons report**, released by the **State Department**, sheds light on the dark underbelly of human trafficking, an umbrella term that includes sexual exploitation, child prostitution, forced labour and debt bondage. It can involve, but does not require, the movement of people from place to place.

"These victims of modern slavery are women and men, girls and boys, and their stories remind us of what kind of inhumane treatment we are still capable of as human beings," Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said. "Some are lured to another country with false promises of a good job or opportunities for their families. Others can be exploited right where they grew up, where they now live."

The report analyzed conditions in over 180 countries, including the United States, and ranked them according to their effectiveness at fighting human trafficking.

Seventeen in all were included in the worst-offending group of countries. These nations, down from 23 last year, do not reach minimum international standards to combat the practice and are not making any significant effort to do so.

Syria blacklisted

Syria was added to the list of worst offenders for the first time and could face sanctions from the U.S. government. According to the State Department, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's regime fails to investigate and punish offences or offer protective services to victims.

More than 40 other nations were placed on a **watch list** that could lead to sanctions unless their records improve.

First-hand accounts from victims highlighted the physical and psychological toll of modern slavery.

"I wasn't allowed to go anywhere, they locked us in. They didn't lock us in the house, they locked us in our room. The three of us in a size of room that's not enough for one person," recalls a labour trafficking survivor whom the report refers to as Todor. "I guess they rented us out, or landed us, or bought us? I don't understand what happened. They simply [abused] us physically, mentally and emotionally during that eight months while I was there. I still am afraid, what will happen if they find me, or when they leave jail. I can't go through that terror again, what I went through while I was with them."

The report encourages governments around the world to adopt laws and regulations that will enable them to identify and protect victims of human trafficking. It notes that the next few months will mark the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, a document ratifying U.S. President Abraham Lincoln's commitment to abolishing slavery.

,[#x20ac]oeThe problem of modern trafficking may be entrenched, and it may seem like there is no end in sight," writes Clinton. "But if we act on the laws that have been passed and the commitments that have been made, it is solvable.[#x20ac]

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The New Zealand Herald

**March 2, 2012** Friday

## David Farrar: Slavery on our seas

**SECTION:** NEWS; General**LENGTH:** 695 words

This week the Government received the report of the Ministerial Inquiry into the use of and operation of foreign charter vessels.

These vessels fish in our exclusive economic zone, on behalf of NZ companies that have quota allocations in different fish stocks. Some foreign charter vessels seem to operate with few problems - those under Ukrainian, Japanese and Dominican flags seem to operate in compliance with New Zealand laws. But the reported abuses on some of the Korean flagged vessels are horrific.

A failure to pay minimum wages under NZ law (which the FCVs have agreed to do) is the least of the abuses. They get told they will lose the little pay they do get unless they lie to the NZ authorities about how much they are paid. Any complaints can see them lose bonds worth more than their earnings. They are forced to work long and dangerous hours with no regard for safety.

But even worse than there, there are several documented cases of physical violence, sexual abuse and even rape of the (mainly Indonesian) staff who work on these vessels. They are basically treated as slaves during their incarceration on the vessels. Actually many slaves in the Roman republic were treated better, than what has happened to these workers in our territorial waters.

These abuses have gone on for far too long. New Zealand has even ended up on the **watch list of the US State Department** whose annual **Trafficking in Persons Report** mentions fishing in New Zealand as a problem area.

New Zealand law and policies require staff on board FCVs to be paid the at least \$2 an hour over the New Zealand minimum wage, or \$2,700 a month gross for a 42 hour week. But in reality many of the Indonesian fishers get paid little more than \$150 a month or less than \$1 an hour. They get told they must sign two employment contracts - one for the NZ authorities, and the real one which details a much lower rate of pay.

The Ministerial inquiry has not recommended phasing out the use of FCVs. The main reason for this is it seems there is not enough capacity in New Zealand to fish all of our quota ourselves. This surprises me with so many people unemployed, but I guess not many people want to be out at sea for weeks or months at a time. There are also issues of capital and specialist equipment.

A number of Iwi hold fishing quota. They say they would like to fish it themselves but don't have the resources to buy or lease a boat, and staff it. That is a pity, as part of the rationale for the fisheries treaty settlement of 20 years ago, was to build capacity and jobs amongst Maori in their traditional activity of fishing. It seems it is easier to just on-sell the quota (which to be fair does provide income for the Iwi to provide health and social services).

The Ministerial Inquiry has recommended that MAF place an observer on all FCVs which is something I have advocated previously. They are also recommending that the burden of proof around wage compliance be changed so that FCVs must prove they are paying the correct wages, by requiring them to go into a NZ bank account which can be audited. Further it is proposed that the NZ charter party must be the legal employer with crew having an enforceable NZ employment agreement.

There are a number of other recommendations also. The Government has already agreed to some of the recommendations, but is considering others in more detail. I believe it is important to keep the pressure on the Government to do everything they can to stop these abuses.

The problem is that its ability to act is limited, while the FCVs are flagged under the flags of other countries. This means that, for example, any rapes on board the ships are a matter for the flag state, not New Zealand, unless they are in New Zealand territorial waters (up to 12 miles out) rather than the New Zealand Exclusive Economic Zone (up to 200 miles out). This means that even these changes may prove ineffective, and the eventual solution may have to be require all vessels fishing in our EEZ to be New Zealand flagged ships. This would have adverse economic consequences, but we can't allow these abuses to continue in our waters, by ships fishing New Zealand quota.

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The Straits Times (Singapore)

November 23, 2011 Wednesday

## Four-pronged plan to fight human trafficking

**BYLINE:** Toh Yong Chuan

**SECTION:** PRIME NEWS

**LENGTH:** 585 words

A NATIONAL plan to fight human trafficking in Singapore and overseas will be ready next year, Second Minister for Home Affairs S. Iswaran said yesterday.

It is being worked out by an inter-agency task force that was formed last year to combat what he described as 'a threat to Singapore's security as well as its economic and social fabric'.

Singapore, he said, is an attractive hub of economic activity which sees many people passing through. As a result, it is no less vulnerable than other countries and 'would be seen as an attractive destination country by human trafficking syndicates'.

Mr Iswaran, in his reply to Mr Christopher De Souza (Holland-Bukit Timah GRC), also spelt out how Singapore will tackle human trafficking.

The goal is to bring down the number of trafficking cases and reduce opportunities for traffickers to exploit victims, he said.

The Home Affairs Ministry told The Straits Times that 50 alleged sex trafficking cases were investigated by the police last year, and seven led to arrests and prosecutions. This was an increase from 32 cases investigated and two prosecutions in 2009. Mr Iswaran, who is also Minister in the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Trade and Industry, laid out a four-pronged plan that the Government will pursue to prevent trafficking, protect victims, prosecute offenders, and work in partnership with foreign countries and non-governmental organisations.

To prevent trafficking, the Government will step up enforcement and immigration checks; press for deterrent sentences when traffickers are charged; and publicise the court cases to send a strong message of deterrence.

Victims will receive more attention too. Mr Iswaran said the task force 'is looking at ways to improve the victim care and support programmes'.

The minister did not close the door on new legislation.

He said: 'The task force is examining whether new legislation is required to enhance our ability to fight human trafficking. They will consider, among others, whether enhancements to enforcement powers, increased victim care provisions and harsher sentences are needed.'

Singapore does not have a specific human trafficking law, but the Penal Code and Women's Charter criminalise various aspects of sex trafficking, while the Children and Young Persons Act specifically prohibits trafficking in children.

Mr Iswaran stressed that collaboration with foreign countries and non-governmental organisations is key to ensuring that 'human traffickers are pursued even across borders and legal jurisdictions'.

In this respect, the Interpol Global Complex, which is being set up in Singapore, will be 'an important asset to us', he added.

The complex, when ready in 2013, will beef up the crime-fighting efforts of the international police organisation in the Asia-Pacific region.

Four-pronged plan to fight human trafficking The Straits Times (Singapore) November 23, 2011 Wednesday

Since 2004, Singapore has been criticised by the **United States** in its annual Trafficking in Persons (**TIP**) **report**.

But the Singapore Government has disputed the accuracy of some findings in the report.

Last year, the US downgraded Singapore to a **watch list** of countries which it said did not comply fully with minimum international standards to eliminate trafficking.

This year, Singapore was taken off the **watch list**.

And yesterday, Mr Iswaran pledged to 'remain fully committed to taking the necessary steps, both in the short term and long term, to fight this exploitative crime and bring the perpetrators to task'.

#### **More Parliament reports, Singapore**

**LOAD-DATE:** November 22, 2011

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

**GRAPHIC:** Fifty cases of alleged sex trafficking were investigated last year, with seven leading to arrests and prosecutions, says the Home Affairs Ministry, up from 32 cases and two prosecutions in 2009. -- ST FILE PHOTO

**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

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Africa News

**October** 3, 2011 Monday

## **Nigeria; NAPTIP Unearths N560 Milion Visa Fraud, Alleged Trafficking Plot**

**BYLINE:** This Day (Lagos)**LENGTH:** 420 words

The National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matter (NAPTIP) has uncovered a N560 million Canadian and Australian migration visa scam perpetrated by a travelling agency in Lagos.

NAPTIP, in its investigation, revealed that the scam, which was allegedly perpetrated by the Manager of Crystal Services (the travelling agency), Mr. Makoju Olawale Fredrick at its official premises in Shomolu Lagos, had been in progress for about two years now, involving about 8,000 unsuspecting Nigerians.

It has, in this regard, declared Fredrick wanted for trial and possible prosecution in line with the trafficking in persons prohibition Act of 2003.

Although, the suspect has escaped to the United Arab Emirate (UAE), thus, evading arrest from security agencies in the country, NAPTIP was able to retrieve about 8,000 Nigerian international passports from the office, belonging to his victims; it also arrested the company's secretary, Ms. Aderonke Oshun, who has been helpful in the ongoing investigation.

Briefing the media on this development recently in Abuja, the Executive Secretary of NAPTIP, Mrs. Beatrice Jedy-Agba, stated that its investigation shows that the suspect is the sole director of the agency and has been in the trade of fraudulent migration visa and travels, hence, promoting human trafficking and labour exploitation.

Jedy-Agba said that Fredrick Makoju has been declared wanted by the Nigerian Police Force, adding that NAPTIP would intimate the Interpol to put him on their **watch list** for a swift repatriation back to Nigeria. She explained that his details had also been circulated to the Nigerian Immigration Services, the Directorate of State Services and other government security apparatus in the country.

Meanwhile, the United States ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Terrence McCulley, has reiterated the commitment of the US government to help Nigeria in her fight against human trafficking and other related issues.

Terrence who was received by Jedy-Agba in her office, stated that the **US** government was uncomfortable with Nigeria's current status as contained in the 2010 **US state department report on trafficking in persons**, which puts Nigeria as barely meeting the minimum standards for elimination of trafficking and indicating the country's slowed efforts in anti-trafficking law enforcement.

McCulley said, "The US government looks forward to working with Nigeria and NAPTIP and we urge you to take steps in addressing some of your immediate challenges here at the agency."

**LOAD-DATE:** October 3, 2011**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newsletter



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This Day (Lagos)

**October** 3, 2011 Monday

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**BYLINE:** Chineme Okafor**LENGTH:** 420 words

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Malaysia General News

June 29, 2011 Wednesday

## 500,000 BANGLADESHIS IN M'SIA TO BE REGISTERED THROUGH BIOMETRIC SYSTEM

**LENGTH:** 440 words**DATELINE:** PUTRAJAYA June 29

All Bangladesh nationals in the country, estimated to be around 500,000 legal and illegal, will be registered through the biometric system in cooperation with the Bangladesh government.

Home Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein said the programme, which was also part of an amnesty exercise announced recently, could resolve the illegal immigrant problem, besides addressing the threats of transnational crime by curbing illegal activities, including human smuggling and trafficking.

"The objective is to stop the exploitation of these people by human traffickers, syndicates or third parties because we feel that on humanitarian reason alone, we have to fight this all out," he told reporters at a joint press conference with the Bangladesh High Commissioner to Malaysia, Atiqur Rehman, here today.

Hishammuddin said the process would be coordinated by the Home Ministry's secretary-general Tan Sri Mahmood Adam on the macro level, to look at how the process could be done immediately, while its deputy secretary-general (Registration and Immigration) Datuk Alwi Ibrahim would look into the registration process.

He said Immigration director-general Datuk Alias Ahmad would look into the operational side, and 1,400 officers had already been identified to assist in the process.

The methods and time frame for registration would be announced later by the person in charge, he said.

Hishammuddin said the ministry would also be working with the other ministries including the Human Resource Ministry and Plantation Industries and Commodities Ministry so that any ministry which required workers could absorb those already here, without bringing in new workers.

Police and intelligence agencies from both countries had also been asked to come on board to monitor the movement of international syndicates of human trafficking, he said.

Hishammuddin also said that Malaysia was still on the United States' human trafficking **watch list** as the measures to encounter the issue had just been rolled out, including the introduction of the biometric system.

"I would like them to keep watching. And if after all these (measures) have been undertaken but we are still on the **watch list**, then I think they themselves are not doing their job," he said.

The **US State Department's** annual **Trafficking in Persons Report** released on Monday had maintained Malaysia on the **watch list** while the Philippines and Singapore were removed from it.

Asked whether he could see Malaysia to be out of the list by next year, Hishammuddin said: "We will see, because all this will depend on our effort and how fast we can do it, but I am doing it in a pragmatic and realistic way."

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The Frontrunner

June 28, 2011 Tuesday

## Clinton Presents Human Trafficking Report

**SECTION:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 122 words

The AP (6/28, Lee) reports Secretary of State Clinton presented the **State Department's** annual **Trafficking in Persons report**, which "nearly doubled the number of countries that may face **US** sanctions for not doing enough to combat human trafficking," with "23 nations as failing to meet minimum international standards to curb the scourge," up from the previous 13. ". Another 41 countries were placed on a '**watch list**' that could lead to sanctions unless their records improve." Clinton said, "All countries can and must do more," adding, "We're at critical moment in this fight." She said, "If we increase the pressure on traffickers and the networks they thrive in, we can set ourselves on a course to one day eradicate modern slavery."

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Radio Free Europe

June 27, 2011

**Estonia, Belarus, Russia Put On U.S. Human Trafficking Watch List**

SECTION: NEWS STORIES AND DOCUMENTS

LENGTH: 137 words

News

Estonia, Belarus, Russia On U.S. Human Trafficking **Watch List**

June 27, 2011

The United States has put Estonia and Belarus on a human-trafficking **watch list**, alleging they failed in the last year to step up efforts to fight prostitution and forced labor.

In its 2011 annual "**Global Trafficking in Persons Report**," **the State Department** also maintained Russia on the list for the eighth consecutive year for similar alleged failures.

The report said women and children are sold into the sex trade in Russia, Germany, Poland, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Spain, Greece, Belgium, Turkey, Israel, Lebanon, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates.

compiled from agency reports

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Agence France Presse -- English

**April** 7, 2011 Thursday 8:16 PM GMT

## US senator criticizes anti-trafficking approach

**LENGTH:** 389 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON, April 7 2011

A senator on Thursday urged reform of an annual **report on human trafficking**, saying the **United States** has alienated key allies in Asia through its spirited criticism of their efforts.

The State Department last year put a number of Asian nations including Singapore and Thailand on a **watch list**, saying they failed to prevent foreign women from forced prostitution. Singapore responded indignantly.

Senator Jim Webb, who heads the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on East Asia, said the report lacked clear metrics and caused "confusion and resentment" by lumping together countries with different records.

"I think we all support the intentions of the State Department to prevent trafficking and to assist victims. However, our engagement with Asia is in danger of being hindered by the approach of this report," Webb said.

Webb, a member of Obama's Democratic Party from Virginia, said that a friend in Singapore was "amazed at this categorization when you look at the quality of the government and the order in the society."

"If you compare the stability in Singapore to the United States, with its estimated 20 million illegals, many of whom came here through human trafficking, what's going on?" Webb said at a Senate hearing.

Webb also questioned the downgrade last year for Thailand, which was in the midst of major political upheaval, and asked why Nigeria was ranked higher than Japan.

Luis CdeBaca, the State Department's ambassador-at-large for human trafficking, defended the annual report and said it had led nations to improve their records, whatever their public expressions of dismay.

The fight against human trafficking "can mean telling friends truths they may not want to hear," CdeBaca said at the hearing.

Quoting an unnamed former skeptic, CdeBaca said the report "has made an indisputable contribution to the evolution of a global consensus around the problem of trafficking and, specifically in Southeast Asia, has served as the impetus for major reform initiatives."

He said that Indonesia and Malaysia have both drafted laws against human trafficking in response to the criticism, although enforcement has been inconsistent.

The latest report is due out in June. Last year, the State Department said that South Korea and Taiwan were the sole jurisdictions in Asia that took full-fledged action against human trafficking.

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Bank Technology News

**March** 2011

## AML and Human Trafficking

**BYLINE:** Shane Kite**SECTION:** SHIFTING GEARS; Pg. 1 Vol. 24 No. 03**LENGTH:** 497 words

Anti-money laundering (AML) vendors are tweaking their systems to spot suspicious activity pegged to human trafficking while the government continues to promote more awareness of the crime by informing banks and their vendors of its telltale signs.

While the numbers are controversial-it's basically impossible to attain an accurate count when so few report the crime-the U.N estimates that human trafficking represents a \$32 billion annual global trade that, according to the U.S. State Department, forces 12.3 million adults and children into slave labor or prostitution. Some experts say trafficking involving the sex trade is one of the fastest growing criminal enterprises.

Governments have therefore tried to help both AML vendors and banks spot potential human trafficking patterns in the money nexus to aid in stemming the crime and in prosecuting its alleged purveyors.

Project STAMP, launched a year ago by **U.S.** Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE), aims to "assist financial institutions in developing the typologies necessary to proactively target and **report on [human trafficking and smuggling]** organizations attempting to launder their illicit proceeds."

ICE says banks should be particularly aware of multiple financial transactions structured under \$3,000 on the same day at money service businesses (MSBs), a pattern in which traffickers have been known to engage. MSBs are often bank customers. Angie Salazar, a special agent and national program manager in ICE's human smuggling and trafficking unit, said in January during a Web seminar sponsored by the Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists (ACAMS) that banks should watch for "round number payments tied to spas or massage parlors."

AML solution providers like Fiserv, NICE (Actimize), Oracle (Mantas) and SAS have added people, companies and behaviors the government says are associated with human trafficking to **watch list** filters that cross-check the data against banks' customer accounts.

Tony Wicks, director of AML Solutions at NICE Actimize, says several customers in California and Europe used Actimize's pattern analysis several years ago to pinpoint unusual customer account behaviors, which were later pegged to human trafficking.

Jeroen Dekker, product manager of financial crime risk management solutions at Fiserv, cautions that AML software detects only "money laundering patterns, not the underlying predicate offenses," though tools like Fiserv's screen transaction counterparties against trafficking typologies and entities.

Cameron Jones, director of product management at SAS Institute's fraud and financial crimes practice, says scrutiny should be applied to "high-risk countries like Mexico and Eastern Europe, escort and labor services, travel agencies, landscaping companies, nail salons, money remittances, and cross-border, low dollar wires." Jones says "a large North American bank" has used SAS AML monitoring "to detect behavior synonymous with human trafficking."

**URL:** <http://www.americanbanker.com/btn.html/>**LOAD-DATE:** March 1, 2011

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South Asia

**August** 31, 2010 Tuesday

## Say no to human trafficking!

**BYLINE:** Irsa Khan - Email: irsa-khan@hotmail.com**SECTION:** Vol. 14 No. 8**LENGTH:** 617 words

Two news items have made headlines in the Maldives recently. In May the country secured a seat in the UN Human Rights Council. Claimed to have been achieved through the highest number of votes in the Council's history, it strengthened Maldives' position and enabled it to lend its support for protecting human rights worldwide.

Quite interestingly, the U.S. State Department has placed the Maldives on its **watch-list** for human trafficking, following the country's failure to "investigate or prosecute trafficking-related offenses or take concrete actions to protect trafficking victims and prevent trafficking in the Maldives."

The **State Department's** 2010 **Human Trafficking report**, which came less than a month after the Maldives was given a seat on the UN Human Rights Council, points to the Maldivian government's inaction, particularly regarding forced labor and exploitation of Bangladeshi nationals.

The report fears that half of the 35,000 Bangladeshis in the Maldives went there illegally and that most of these workers are probably victims of human trafficking. These workers on average pay between U.S. \$1,000 to U.S. \$4,000 in recruitment fees which potentially makes them vulnerable to forced labor.

The report also classified three types of 'illegal workers' in Maldives: "families that subject domestic servants to forced labor; employment agents who bring low-skilled migrant workers to the Maldives under false terms of employment and upon payment of high fees; and employers who subject the migrants to conditions of forced labor upon arrival."

This issue of migrant workers and their supposed exploitation in Maldives has been creating quite a furor internationally. Equally disturbing are reports about government's ineptness in dealing with them where the present government in the country blames the previous Gayoom government for profiting from the exploitation.

But how can the migrant workers, who flock in huge number to Maldives in search of good labor end up being labeled as human traffic victims? Almost all Human Rights Commission reports have pointed towards forced labor, very much prevalent in Maldives, which makes even legal workers vulnerable to the working climate in the country.

Migrant laborers pay an exorbitant amount to agents to get into what they think is the lucrative Maldives labor force, only to be hoodwinked into lesser jobs, lesser pay and appalling working conditions. Moreover the dispossessed laborers find themselves in a place that couldn't have been more different to their dreams. Without proper documents they are unable to report to the police and susceptible to exploitation and extortion. The immigration department estimates that as much as 30,000 "illegal" migrant workers may be in the country. To add to that, the government's "general policy" for dealing with trafficking victims is deportation. It does not provide foreign victims with legal alternatives to their removal to countries where they might face hardship or retribution which in turn further deteriorates the situation.

Although Mohammad Nasheed's government is trying to sort the problem, motivated by its bid to become a member of the International Labour Organisation, it has, so far, failed to bring any of the alleged agents or officials to justice. Instead, the government appears to be concentrating on rounding up illegal immigrants and trying to deport them.

However, human trafficking is a serious international crime and collusion or complicity can seriously jeopardize the Maldives government's bid to join the ILO, which has a constitutional mandate to protect migrant workers.

Say no to human trafficking! South Asia August 31, 2010 Tuesday

The writer is a freelance journalist who writes on various issues concerning South Asia.

**LOAD-DATE:** November 23, 2011

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**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Magazine

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Call for clearer laws on human trafficking; It would give officials stronger hand in fighting the crime, says some MPs and activists The Straits Times (Singapore) June 28, 2010 Monday

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The Straits Times (Singapore)

June 28, 2010 Monday

## **Call for clearer laws on human trafficking; It would give officials stronger hand in fighting the crime, says some MPs and activists**

**BYLINE:** Mavis Toh

**LENGTH:** 670 words

ACTIVISTS and Members of Parliament here have called for specific laws to bring human traffickers to justice so the problem can be fought head on.

The law should spell out what constitutes trafficking, they said.

For example, should a foreign woman who claims she was promised a waitressing job here but is then made to service men in Geylang be considered a trafficking victim?

In some countries, the answer is no because she entered the country willingly and was not smuggled in; elsewhere, she would be considered one because she may have been tricked or coerced into coming here.

MP Halimah Yacob, who often speaks up on foreign worker issues, said: 'Having greater clarity in our laws on what constitutes trafficking helps, as it will give our enforcement officers, who have to work within the framework of the law, a clearer idea of what to look out for when dealing with doubtful cases.'

Ms Bridget Tan, president of the Humanitarian Organisation for Migration Economics, agreed such laws would show traffickers and the world that Singapore is serious about fighting human trafficking and would give enforcement agencies a mandate to protect witnesses and victims.

They were responding to an accusation by the United States' State Department that Singapore is not doing enough to curb the trade in human beings for labour or prostitution.

The **State Department's** annual **Trafficking In Persons Report** has, for the first time, put Singapore on a human trafficking **watch list**, alongside countries such as Bangladesh, China and India.

The report noted that of 7,614 foreign females arrested for prostitution violations in Singapore last year, nearly all were deported. It also asked why, of the 89 child prostitution cases that cropped up last year, only four were investigated as potential sex trafficking cases.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has so far not responded to queries The Straits Times posed on these figures nearly two weeks ago.

Mr John Gee, president of migrant worker advocacy group Transient Workers Count Too, said: 'Many women who are trafficked into sex work end up arrested and charged with overstaying, which leads to a prison sentence.'

This means that, as the law stands, women who may actually be victims of trafficking are made out to be criminals, he said.

Singapore law criminalises trafficking through its Penal Code and statutes like the Children and Young Persons Act and the Women's Charter.

MP Alvin Yeo, who chairs the Government Parliamentary Committee for Home Affairs and Law, however, believes the Penal Code has enough provisions to deal with human traffickers, and the greater challenges lie in detection and enforcement.

Call for clearer laws on human trafficking; It would give officials stronger hand in fighting the crime, says some MPs and activists The Straits Times (Singapore) June 28, 2010 Monday

'Part of the problem may be that the women in question are reluctant, whether for fear of reprisals or of being deported, to come forward to the police,' he said.

Some activists believe still more can be done, saying Singapore should set up procedures to identify trafficked victims, review its laws and definition of trafficking and compare these to the United Nations' Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons.

Singapore has not signed this first global, legally binding instrument on trafficking in persons.

The activists concede, however, that determining whether an individual is a victim is costly and laborious.

Said Mr Gee: 'There are bound to be uncertainties about whether a person has been trafficked or is working voluntarily, or whether a woman is being intimidated into giving false testimony.'

But still, if the police have clear guidelines, it will help their work and give trafficked women confidence to turn to the police for 'systemic treatment', he said.

MP Christopher De Souza said: 'What we need is when we catch hold of traffickers, to make a strong example out of them. That will be a strong deterrent for future potential traffickers.'

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RELUCTANCE

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MP Alvin Yeo

**LOAD-DATE:** June 27, 2010

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

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Deutsche Presse-Agentur

**June** 24, 2010 Thursday 8:52 AM EST**US urges Philippines to step up fight against human trafficking****LENGTH:** 326 words**DATELINE:** Manila

DPA x Philippine Crime US US urges Philippines to step up fight against human trafficking Manila  
The United States on Thursday urged the Philippines to step up the fight against human trafficking as it vowed more support for the campaign.

**US** Ambassador to the Philippines Harry Thomas Junior said he hoped that the implementation of a 2003 anti-trafficking law would be improved this year.

"Today, I challenge you to redouble your efforts to combat trafficking in persons, to ensure vulnerable members of society are not preyed upon, and to bring predators to justice," he said.

"If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a whole community to fight modern-day slavery," he told an anti-trafficking forum in Cebu City, 585 kilometres south of Manila.

Thomas said the **US** has provided nearly 7 million dollars in assistance to anti-trafficking initiatives in the Philippines since 2005, including 1.7 million dollars in 2009.

"We want this support to continue," he said. "Fighting human trafficking is not a static exercise, the global community has to do more every year and change our tactics as traffickers change theirs."

Last week, the **US State Department** reported that it has retained the Philippines on its **watch list** of countries that do not comply with international anti-human trafficking laws.

In its 2010 **Trafficking in Persons report, the State Department** said the Philippines "is a source country, and to a much lesser extent, a destination and transit country" for trafficked men, women and children.

While the **US** acknowledged that the Philippines was making progress in addressing human trafficking, it noted that the South-East Asian country has failed "to show evidence of progress in convicting

US urges Philippines to step up fight against human trafficking Deutsche Presse-Agentur June 24, 2010 Thursday 8:52  
AM EST

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It urged Manila to disseminate information about the anti-trafficking law and train law enforcement and social service officials, prosecutors and judges on the use of the law.

Jun 24 10 0852 GMT

**LOAD-DATE:** June 25, 2010

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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US urges Philippines to step up fight against human trafficking = Deutsche Presse-Agentur June 24, 2010 Thursday  
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Deutsche Presse-Agentur

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The Advertiser (Australia)

**June** 16, 2010 Wednesday  
1 - State Edition

## Trafficking report targets 13 nations

**SECTION:** FOREIGN; Pg. 32**LENGTH:** 153 words

WASHINGTON: The US has warned more than a dozen states, including Iran, North Korea, Cuba and Burma, of possible sanctions for failing to do enough to fight human trafficking.

The State Department's 10th annual review of global efforts to eliminate the trade in human beings and sexual slavery puts 13 countries on notice that they are not complying with minimum international standards and may face US penalties.

Other nations receiving a failing grade are Congo, the Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Kuwait, Mauritania, Papua New Guinea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Zimbabwe.

A further 58 countries have been placed on a **"watch list"** that could lead to sanctions unless their records improve.

For the first time, the **US** is included in the department's **Trafficking in Persons Report** and has been given high marks. The report says that while trafficking is a problem in the **US**, the nation is complying with all minimum standards.

**LOAD-DATE:** June 15, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper**JOURNAL-CODE:** ADV

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RTT News (United States)

June 15, 2010 Tuesday

## Singapore Dismisses **US Report On Human Trafficking As Subjective**

**LENGTH:** 279 words

(RTTNews) - Singapore, which has been placed on the U.S. human trafficking **watch list**, dismissed Tuesday the U.S. report as "more a political ritual than an objective study."

In the **Trafficking In Persons Report** 2010 released on Monday, the **U.S. State Department** added a number of Asian nations to its **watch list** - Afghanistan, Brunei, Laos, Maldives, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam - accusing them of failing to prevent women from being forced into prostitution.

It said Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam regressed last year in their efforts to battle trafficking in men, women and children for labor or commercial sex.

The report said while Singapore took "some significant new steps" against human trafficking, there were no "quantifiable indicators" that the government was identifying more victims or prosecuting more culprits.

A spokesman for Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs termed the findings of the latest **TIP report** as "rather puzzling because the **US** has not satisfactorily explained how it had arrived at its conclusions."

The annual report presented by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton recognized improvements in Pakistan, which was taken off the **watch list**, and Malaysia, which was on the list but removed from the lowest category of countries that do not meet minimum standards.

Bangladesh, China, India, Micronesia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka remained on the list unchanged from a year earlier.

North Korea, Myanmar and Papua New Guinea remained at the bottom level of countries that do not even meet the minimum standards on human trafficking.

For comments and feedback: contact [editorial@rttnews.com](mailto:editorial@rttnews.com)

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**LOAD-DATE:** June 15, 2010

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Web Publication

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Singapore Government News

**June** 15, 2010 Tuesday 6:30 AM EST

## Singapore Reacts Over US Trafficking Report

**LENGTH:** 102 words

Singapore, June 15: The government has reacted strongly to a US government report putting it on a human-trafficking **watch list**.

The 2010 Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report had listed Singapore, along with other neighbours, as a country that could not prevent women from being forced into prostitution.

Singapore's foreign ministry said, "We have read the latest **TIP report**. It is rather puzzling because the **US** has not satisfactorily explained how it had arrived at its conclusions. We are committed to tackling the TIP issue, and our efforts in dealing with this issue have certainly not weakened since last year."

**LOAD-DATE:** June 21, 2010**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

Activists: Canceling Ukraine visas won't increase trafficking. Debate follows Yishai's claims that 'Ukraine is a hub of prostitution' The Jerusalem Post December 31, 2009 Thursday

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The Jerusalem Post

**December** 31, 2009 Thursday

## **Activists: Canceling Ukraine visas won't increase trafficking. Debate follows Yishai's claims that 'Ukraine is a hub of prostitution'**

**BYLINE:** RUTH EGLASH

**SECTION:** NEWS; Pg. 6

**LENGTH:** 695 words

Anti-trafficking activists expressed doubt Wednesday over claims made by Interior Minister Eli Yishai that canceling visa requirements from Ukraine would likely increase human trafficking or prostitution in Israel.

Following statements made this week by Yishai - who called Ukraine a center of prostitution - Amnesty International Anti-Trafficking Adviser Gal Harmat Ben-Meir told The Jerusalem Post that "even with current visa requirements it is not too difficult for those involved in trafficking to bring women into Israel."

Also an adviser to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the United Nations Development Project (UNDP) on trafficking activities in Moldova and Belarus, Harmat Ben-Meir said that arguing over visa requirements was not the way to reduce such activities.

"Eli Yishai fights over visas but does nothing to fight trafficking itself," she charged, adding that more needed to be done to prosecute those facilitating the sex trade, including clients who utilize such services.

"I believe most people who want to come here from Ukraine do so because they are visiting family members and not because they want to stay here and work in the sex industry," added Harmat Ben-Meir, pointing out that Ukraine was no longer considered a main center for trafficking operations but nearby Moldova and Belarus were.

In addition, she also noted that since visa requirements from Russia - another center for human trafficking - to Israel were cancelled just over a year ago, there had not been an increase in such activities.

Rather, the easing of entry requirements for Russian citizens visiting Israel, which has greatly boosted tourism from that country, is exactly the reason the debate over dropping entry restrictions from Ukraine was ignited this week.

A spokesman for Tourism Minister Stas Meseznikov told the Post that visits to Israel by Russian tourists had increased by 84 percent after visa requirements were eased in 2008 and by a further 12% this year, bringing the total number of visitors from Russia up to 400,000. This was a great boost for Israel's tourism industry in a year when overall tourism figures had slumped, he said.

Both the Israel Hotels Association and Israel's Incoming Tour Operators Association sent letters Tuesday to Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman and Yishai urging them to consider canceling tourist visas from Ukraine based on the success of the Russian model.

The matter was meant to have been discussed last Sunday at the weekly cabinet meeting, however protests from Yishai meant it was postponed to this coming Sunday.

A spokesman for Yishai said Wednesday that the minister's concerns were based on information provided by the Public Security Ministry last year when the issue of canceling visas for Russian tourists was being debated.

"At the time, the Public Security Ministry said that Ukraine was much more a problem than Russia because it is the source of trafficking in women," he told the Post, adding that the minister insisted on creating an inter-ministerial committee to discuss the matter properly before allowing it to come up for a direct vote in the cabinet.

Activists: Canceling Ukraine visas won't increase trafficking. Debate follows Yishai's claims that 'Ukraine is a hub of prostitution' The Jerusalem Post December 31, 2009 Thursday

"These comments were made by [then Public Security Minister] Avi Dichter last year," responded Meseznikov's spokesman. "It is a shame that a minister bases his judgment on out of date [information] that is not exact."

However, the Justice Ministry's Rachel Gershoni, who coordinates the government's efforts in the battle against trafficking, told the Post that officials in her ministry were also concerned by the proposal to cancel visa requirements from Ukraine.

"It used to be a central country involved in trafficking operations and even now it is on the **US State Department's [Trafficking in Persons report] watch list**," she said. "That is very problematic."

"Russia was never a central country involved in trafficking and that is the main difference," added Gershoni, highlighting that combating such criminal activities needed to be focused on three main areas: prosecution of the perpetrators, protection for the victims and prevention, namely securing the borders so that such women cannot be brought into the country.

**LOAD-DATE:** October 4, 2011

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

**GRAPHIC:** Photo: Eli Yishai

**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

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defenceWeb

September 30, 2009 Wednesday

## Global recession boosts child prostitution and trafficking

**BYLINE:** IRIN

**LENGTH:** 602 words

**HIGHLIGHT:** Commercial sexual exploitation of children is booming in Southeast Asia, with governments failing to do enough to protect young people, experts say.

"The recent economic downturn is set to drive more vulnerable children and young people to be exploited by the global sex trade," Carmen Madrinan, executive director of End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual purposes (), said.

"The indifference that sustains the criminality, greed and perverse demands of adults for sex with children and young people needs to end."

According to a recent report by the group, increasing poverty, reduced budgets for social services and restrictive immigration laws in "destination countries" (which encourage children to avoid detection) are among the factors heightening children's vulnerability.

Added to that, deteriorating household living conditions often compel young people to abandon school to contribute to the family income, exposing them to risk as they seek livelihood options that could result in exploitation, the report states.

The International Labor Organization estimates that sex tourism contributes 2-14 percent of the gross domestic product of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand.

According to the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), an estimated 1.8 million children (mainly girls but also a significant number of boys) enter the multi-billion dollar commercial sex trade annually. Economic and political pressures

In Thailand, hundreds of factories and projects have closed as a result of the global downturn, leaving thousands of workers both Thai and foreign unemployed.

Unemployment is rising at a rate of about 100 000 workers a month and may climb to 1.5 million by the end of the year, specialists say, putting an increasing number of young people at possible risk of exploitation.

"Many people come here and see how cheap it is to buy sex from someone vulnerable, especially in this economic climate, and they delude themselves into thinking they're helping the person out," Giorgio Berardi, programme officer for combating child-sex tourism at ECPAT, said.

### Regional dimensions

indicate that 30 to 35 % of all sex workers in the Mekong sub-region of Southeast Asia are between 12 and 17 years old.

Street children and stateless children are extremely vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation, Amanda Bissex, UNICEF Thailand's chief of child protection, told

"We need to improve law enforcement and the economic welfare of children," says Bissex, "but we also need to address people's attitudes and create an environment where there is zero tolerance for abuse of children, whether in their home country or overseas."

Earlier this year, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) stated in its Global **Report on Trafficking in Persons** 2009 that 79 % of all global trafficking is for sexual exploitation, one of the world's fastest-growing criminal activities.

The report said the proportion of minors involved in various forms of human trafficking increased from about 15 % to nearly 22 % between 2003 and 2007.

In June 2009, the Obama administration expanded the **US watch-list** of countries suspected of not doing enough to combat human trafficking, putting more than four dozen nations including Cambodia and the Philippines on notice that they could face sanctions unless their records improved.

ECPAT also warns that the number of children and young people trafficked within countries is increasing.

Such trafficking frequently involves movement from rural to urban areas or from one city or town to another, without the need for travel documentation. This exploitation is likely to continue proliferating due to the profits generated by sex trafficking.

**LOAD-DATE:** November 8, 2012

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

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defenceWeb

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defenceWeb

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**LOAD-DATE:** December 6, 2012

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

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defenceWeb

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**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

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defenceWeb

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**LOAD-DATE:** December 8, 2012

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

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defenceWeb

September 30, 2009 Wednesday

## Global recession boosts child prostitution and trafficking

**BYLINE:** IRIN

**LENGTH:** 602 words

**HIGHLIGHT:** Commercial sexual exploitation of children is booming in Southeast Asia, with governments failing to do enough to protect young people, experts say.

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**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

26 of 98 DOCUMENTS



defenceWeb

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**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

27 of 98 DOCUMENTS



defenceWeb

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**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

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defenceWeb

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**LOAD-DATE:** December 12, 2012

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

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defenceWeb

September 30, 2009 Wednesday

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**LENGTH:** 602 words

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**LOAD-DATE:** December 13, 2012

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

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defenceWeb

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**LOAD-DATE:** December 14, 2012

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

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defenceWeb

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**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

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defenceWeb

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**LOAD-DATE:** December 16, 2012

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

Reform Jewish Movement Responds to 2009 Human Trafficking Report Targeted News Service June 18, 2009  
Thursday 9:03 AM EST

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Targeted News Service

**June** 18, 2009 Thursday 9:03 AM EST

## Reform Jewish Movement Responds to 2009 Human Trafficking Report

**BYLINE:** Targeted News Service

**LENGTH:** 364 words

**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The Union for Reform Judaism's Religious Action Center issued the following news release:

In response to the release of the **U.S. State Department's** annual **Trafficking in Persons Report**, Rabbi David Saperstein, Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, issued the following statement:

This week's release of the **State Department's** 2009 **Trafficking in Persons Report** highlights the importance of stringent accountability and monitoring of human trafficking. The scourge of human trafficking violates the inherent dignity of every human being. Around the world, year in and year out, hundreds of thousands of women, men, and children each year are victimized by those who enslave them using deception and often outright force. The addition of 12 new countries to the **watch list** of countries not doing enough to combat trafficking, is troubling. These additions, and the very existence of this important report, are critical steps towards assuring that human trafficking is no longer allowed to occur in the shadows as governments turn a blind eye.

As noted by Secretary Clinton, the current global economic crisis creates conditions that make individuals, desperate for a means to support themselves and loved ones, more susceptible to traffickers. We are not immune to the blight of trafficking activity in the U.S. or Canada. Both countries must redouble their efforts to bring traffickers to justice and provide needed support to those who have been trafficked. In addition, though the report describes efforts by the Israeli government to increase vigilance against trafficking we are concerned by the lack of improvement in Israel's rating. It is more urgent than ever for international leaders and NGOs to strengthen measures to combat this modern-day slavery.

Jewish tradition teaches that there is no greater mitzvah than redeeming the captives - those are hungry, thirsty, naked and whose life is in danger. Together we can work to bring about an end to human trafficking and ensure that no woman, man or child knows the experience of captivity.

Contact: Kate Bigam, 202/387-2800, news@rac.org

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TNS 23nq-JF78-090619-2319676 EditorFurigay

**LOAD-DATE:** June 19, 2009

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

Pak does not even comply with minimum human trafficking protection standards: US Asian News International (ANI)  
June 17, 2009 Wednesday

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Asian News International (ANI)

**June** 17, 2009 Wednesday

## **Pak does not even comply with minimum human trafficking protection standards: US**

**BYLINE:** ANI

**LENGTH:** 221 words

Washington, June 17 (ANI): Pakistan does not comply with even the minimum standards set by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, the **US State Department's Trafficking in person report** 2009 has revealed.

The report which was released by the US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, stated that "Pakistan is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation."

The report mentions that the Sindh and Punjab provinces were the two regions where the country's largest trafficking problem exists.

Teenage boys and girls are working in large numbers as bonded labourers in brick kilns, carpet factories, leather tanning, and glass industries, the report said.

Putting Pakistan in class 2 of the **watch list**, the report added that parents sell their daughters into domestic servitude, prostitution, forced marriages, and women are traded between tribal groups to settle disputes or as payment for debts.

"Pakistan girls are trafficked to the Middle East for sexual exploitation," The News quoted the report, as saying.

The report also added that most of the women and children from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, India, Iran, and Nepal are trafficked into Pakistan primarily for forced labor. (ANI)

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**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

**JOURNAL-CODE:** 239

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BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific - Political  
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

June 17, 2009 Wednesday

## US says North Korea among 17 countries with "worst" human trafficking record

**LENGTH:** 212 words

Text of report in English by South Korean news agency Yonhap

Washington, June 16 (Yonhap) - North Korea remains one of the worst countries in human trafficking, along with 16 other nations, the US State Department said Tuesday.

The number of countries being sanctioned by the **US** was expanded to 17 from last year's 14, according to the "**Trafficking in Persons Report** 2009," the ninth annual report presented to Congress. It attributed the increase to worsening economic conditions globally.

Financial sanctions and a ban on humanitarian aid are imposed on countries that are listed for two straight years.

The countries include Cuba, Iran, Myanmar, Sudan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Zimbabwe, Chad, Eritrea, Mauritania, Niger, and Swaziland.

The report also put 35 countries, mostly in Asia, Africa and the Middle East, on the **watch list**. Those are not subject to sanctions.

The report said the "impacts of the human trafficking are devastating."

"Victims may suffer physical and emotional abuse, rape, threats against self and family, and even death," it said. "But the devastation extends beyond individual victims; human trafficking undermines the health, safety, and security of all nations it touches."

Source: Yonhap news agency, Seoul, in English 2219 gmt 16 Jun 09

**LOAD-DATE:** June 17, 2009**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Transcript

Pak does not even comply with minimum human trafficking protection standards: US Hindustan Times June 17, 2009  
Wednesday

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Hindustan Times

**June 17, 2009** Wednesday

## **Pak does not even comply with minimum human trafficking protection standards: US**

**LENGTH:** 225 words

**DATELINE:** Washington

Washington, June. 17 -- Pakistan does not comply with even the minimum standards set by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, the **US State Department's Trafficking in person report 2009** has revealed.

The report which was released by the US Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, stated that 'Pakistan is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation.' The report mentions that the Sindh and Punjab provinces were the two regions where the country's largest trafficking problem exists. Teenage boys and girls are working in large numbers as bonded labourers in brick kilns, carpet factories, leather tanning, and glass industries, the report said. Putting Pakistan in class 2 of the **watch list**, the report added that parents sell their daughters into domestic servitude, prostitution, forced marriages, and women are traded between tribal groups to settle disputes or as payment for debts. 'Pakistan girls are trafficked to the Middle East for sexual exploitation,' The News quoted the report, as saying. The report also added that most of the women and children from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, India, Iran, and Nepal are trafficked into Pakistan primarily for forced labor. Published by HT Syndication with permission from Asian News International.

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Korea Times

June 17, 2009 Wednesday

## NK Among 17 Worst Human Trafficking Nations

**LENGTH:** 191 words

North Korea remains one of the worst countries in human trafficking, along with 16 other nations, the U.S. State Department said Tuesday.

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Financial sanctions and a ban on humanitarian aid are imposed on countries that are listed for two straight years.

The countries include Cuba, Iran, Myanmar, Sudan, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Zimbabwe, Chad, Eritrea, Mauritania, Niger, and Swaziland, according to Yonhap News Agency.

The report also put 35 countries, mostly in Asia, Africa and the Middle East, on the **watch list**. Those are not subject to sanctions.

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"Victims may suffer physical and emotional abuse, rape, threats against self and family, and even death," it said. "But the devastation extends beyond individual victims; human trafficking undermines the health, safety, and security of all nations it touches."

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**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

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North Korea: N. Korea remains among 17 worst human trafficking countries: State Dept. Thai News Service June 17, 2009 Wednesday

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Thai News Service

**June** 17, 2009 Wednesday

## **North Korea: N. Korea remains among 17 worst human trafficking countries: State Dept.**

**SECTION:** GENERAL NEWS

**LENGTH:** 188 words

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UNI (United News of India)

June 17, 2009 Wednesday

**India figures on US human trafficking watch list**

LENGTH: 397 words

DATELINE: Washington

Washington, Jun. 17 -- India figures along with 52 other countries and territories that the United States has put on its "**watch list**" for suspicion of not doing enough to combat human trafficking.

The **State Department's** annual "**Trafficking in Persons Report**" released yesterday by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton records a 30 per cent increase in the number of such countries, mainly in Africa, Asia and the West Asia. Besides India, others on the list are Pakistan and Bangladesh. The report says India is a source, destination, and transit country for men, women, and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labour and commercial sexual exploitation. India is also a destination for women and girls from Nepal and Bangladesh trafficked for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation. Though India has made significant efforts to check the trafficking, the document says, it has not demonstrated sufficient progress in its law enforcement efforts. Clinton called the trafficking of persons for forced labor, sexual exploitation and other illicit purposes "modern-day" slavery that spans the globe and affects every country including the **United States**. India figures along with 52 other countries and territories that the **United States** has put on its "**watch list**" for suspicion of not doing enough to combat human trafficking. The **State Department's** annual "**Trafficking in Persons Report**" released yesterday by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton records a 30 per cent increase in the number of such countries, mainly in Africa, Asia and the West Asia. Besides India, others on the list are Pakistan and Bangladesh. The report says India is a source, destination, and transit country for men, women, and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labour and commercial sexual exploitation. India is also a destination for women and girls from Nepal and Bangladesh trafficked for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation. Though India has made significant efforts to check the trafficking, the document says, it has not demonstrated sufficient progress in its law enforcement efforts. Clinton called the trafficking of persons for forced labor, sexual exploitation and other illicit purposes "modern-day" slavery that spans the globe and affects every country including the **United States**. Published by HT Syndication with permission from United News of India.

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Christian Science Monitor

June 16, 2009, Tuesday

## Economic downturn fuels human trafficking

**BYLINE:** Howard LaFranchi Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

**SECTION:** USA; Pg. 2

**LENGTH:** 754 words

**DATELINE:** Washington

The economic downturn is adding a new dimension to the global problem of human trafficking - known as modern-day slavery - as workers desperate for income accept increasingly onerous conditions or fall prey to international cheap-labor rings.

The result, according to the **State Department's** annual **Trafficking in Persons report**, is an increase in the number of countries, primarily in the developing world, that are either overlooking rising incidents of trafficking and bondage, or are failing to enforce the laws they've passed to curb the problem.

The report, which covers 2008 but which is the Obama administration's first on the issue, places 52 countries and territories on the **watch list** of countries that are not doing enough to stem human trafficking, up from 40 countries last year.

"In a time of economic crisis, workers are more vulnerable ... and persons under economic stress are more likely to fall prey to the wiles of traffickers," says Luis CdeBaca, director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

The uptick in countries on the US **watch list** reflects both the increased number of countries included in the ranking this year - up by 20 to a total of 173 countries - and the tighter standards passed by Congress last year for judging a country's performance.

But the economic crisis is clearly another factor, says Mr. CdeBaca. As economies have soured, more workers in sectors ranging from agriculture and fishing to construction and domestic services have fallen prey to employers who deny wages, claiming they are owed debts workers are unable to repay, or who use an employee's murky legal status to force them into bondage.

Traditionally, human trafficking has been associated with the international sex trade. And forced prostitution of women and children remains a major contributor to trafficking, but CdeBaca notes that the International Labor Organization this year estimates 12.3 million cases of human bondage worldwide, of which just over one-tenth, or 1.5 million, are thought to be cases of sexual servitude.

In more evidence that labor trafficking isn't getting enough attention from economically-strapped countries, the State Department notes that of the 2,983 convictions reported worldwide, only 104 were for trafficking in the labor sector.

One the bright side, the State Department showcases Nigeria, a country that this year moved up to the elite list of countries that fully comply with the minimum international standards for protecting trafficking victims. Highlighting Nigeria's "political will" to address the issue, CdeBaca says, "I can't talk about it enough" as an example for other countries.

Not so encouraging was Malaysia, which suffered a downgrade of its ranking over evidence of increased trafficking of Burmese refugees for servitude in the South Asian country. The downgrade reflects the findings of a US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations report earlier this year that exposed rampant exploitation and trafficking of Burmese migrants and refugees - often with the collaboration of Malaysian officials.

Domestic and international anti-slavery organizations have been crucial in highlighting cases and ending abusive practices, says the new US report - the ninth since human trafficking legislation was passed in 2000. One such organization is the Touch a Life Foundation, a Dallas-based organization working to rescue victims ranging from boys enslaved by fishermen on Ghana's Lake Volta to girls and women in sexual servitude in Cambodia.

Pam Cope, Touch a Life's cofounder, says the traditional acceptance of servitude in some cultures and lax enforcement of existing laws are contributing to human trafficking as much as the economic downturn.

"I don't really see it having so much to do with the poor economy. I just think human trafficking has become a huge money-making industry," she says, adding that too many countries fail to enforce the laws they have to stop it.

That's the case of Cambodia, she says, where authorities look the other way as visiting foreigners exploit locals for sex and other services. A different case is Ghana, she says, where her organization is working with local men to rescue small boys enslaved by fishermen and to educate tribal chiefs about the long-term impact of slavery on their communities.

"I'm hopeful with Ghana," she says, "because the people we're working with there are really taking this effort to end this slavery and making it their own."

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**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

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International Enforcement Law Reporter

**August** 2008**Cuba Deports American Fugitive Wanted for Sexual Crimes against a Minor****BYLINE:** Bruce Zagaris**SECTION:** EXTRADITION; Vol. 24, No. 8**LENGTH:** 699 words

On June 13, 2008, the Cuban government deported Leonard B. Auerbach, 61, a mortgage specialist from Orinda, California to the U.S. Auerbach is the fourth such U.S. fugitive Cuba has deported since President Raul Castro first took provisional power from his brother Fidel in July 2006. Auerbach faces federal charges in California of sexually abusing a Costa Rican girl and possessing child pornography. n1

n1 *Cuba deports fugitive Orinda man*, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE, June 14, 2008, at A3, col. 1.

The Cuban Foreign Ministry said Auerbach entered Cuba via Mexico on April 8, 2008. Cuban authorities detained him on May 7, 2008 based on information provided by U.S. authorities. The Cuban government said it detained and surrendered Auerbach because "the crimes of which he is accused in the United States are of grave character and strongly fought by our authorities." However, the Cuban government said it found no evidence he committed a crime in Cuba. n2

n2 *Cuba returns child sex fugitive to US*, CARIBBEANNETNEWS.COM, June 14, 2008.

The U.S. Interests Section in Havana had no immediate comment. n3

n3 *Id.*

On June 8, 2008, the Cuban government strongly criticized the U.S. State Department 2008 Trafficking Report, which includes Cuba on a **Watch List** of countries it accuses of not making significant efforts to combat internal trafficking of women and children for the purposes of sexual exploitation. n4

n4 For more information about the report, see Anne Kelsey, *U.S. Department of State Publishes 2008 Trafficking in Persons Report*, 24 INTL ENFORCEMENT L. REP. 336 (July 2008).

"The Foreign Ministry categorically rejects the content of this new report from the State Department, which ignores and distorts Cuban reality in an attempt to justify the criminal U.S. policy of blockade, aggression and hostility against Cuba," the statement said. The Cuban government accused the State Department of attempting to "denigrate the social and moral achievements of the Cuban Revolution, in particular the priority it accords to the care of women and children, which is widely recognized at the international level, and also attempted to discredit the healthy growth and development of the tourist industry."

The Foreign Ministry said that the U.S. government lacks the credibility to accuse Cuba, and hence it does not believe the contents of the report are credible. n5 Cuba has developed legislation focused on combating human trafficking and exploitation. In 1999, for example, Cuba introduced new crime categories and tougher penalties for international trafficking and corruption of children and other acts against normal child development.

n5 *Government deports US citizen wanted for child sex abuse*, CARIBBEAn360.COM, June 16, 2008.

Cuba Deports American Fugitive Wanted for Sexual Crimes against a Minor International Enforcement Law Reporter  
August 2008

The criminal code reform added the crimes of money laundering, trafficking in persons, and sale and trafficking of children. The reform imposes prison sentences of from seven to 15 years for those who use children in any form of international trafficking. n6

n6 *Id.*

According to the Cuban government, in 2002, the U.S. refused an offer by the Cuban government to negotiate bilateral cooperation agreements to fight illegal emigration, terrorism and drug smuggling. n7

n7 *Id.*

Since the 1960s, when relations between the U.S. and Cuba deteriorated, cooperation in criminal matters, such as deporting or surrendering persons accused of hijacking planes and cooperation on drug trafficking, has presaged more general improvement of relations between the two governments. Another area of Cuban-U.S. bilateral enforcement cooperation is the agreement that U.S. persons with commercial interests in smuggling Cuban baseball players should be prosecuted. n8 It remains too soon to know whether the cooperation in surrendering U.S. fugitives and the prosecution of smugglers of Cuban players are a broad indication of cooperation or whether they constitute very selective exercises of the power to cooperate on international enforcement matters.

n8 See Michael Lewis, *Commie Bay: A Journey to the End of the Revolution*, VANITY FAIR 84, 91 (July 2008).

**LOAD-DATE:** September 5, 2008

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

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GAO Reports

July 29, 2008

RPT-NUMBER: GAO-08-892

## U.S. GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO ADDRESS ALLEGED ABUSE OF HOUSEHOLD WORKERS BY FOREIGN DIPLOMATS WITH IMMUNITY COULD BE STRENGTHENED

SECTION: GAO REPORT

LENGTH: 11865 words

GAO-08-892

Human Rights: U.S. Government's Efforts to Address Alleged Abuse of Household Workers by Foreign Diplomats with Immunity Could Be Strengthened July 29, 2008 Statement of Thomas Melito, Director, International Affairs and Trade

The Honorable Richard Durbin Chairman The Honorable Tom Coburn, MD Ranking Member Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law Committee on Judiciary United States Senate

In June 2007, the **Department of State** (State) noted in its annual **Trafficking in Persons report** that some foreign diplomats<sup>1</sup> may have abused individuals they had brought to the **United States** to work in their households. State again highlighted this problem in a July 2007 note to all Chiefs of Diplomatic Missions in the **United States**, stating that it had recently learned of a number of allegations of trafficking in persons<sup>2</sup> with respect to household workers, including allegations of involuntary servitude and physical abuse. A few of these cases have garnered congressional and media attention, particularly because the accused foreign diplomats held full diplomatic immunity<sup>3</sup> and thus could not be prosecuted in **U.S.** courts. For example, in 2002, a household worker accused her employers, a high-ranking diplomat and his wife, of verbally, physically, and sexually abusing her. She also alleged that they required her to work 16 to 17-hour days without any payment and prohibited her from leaving the home unaccompanied. She filed a civil lawsuit against her employers, but because they held full diplomatic immunity, the case was dismissed. The diplomat and his wife have since left the **United States**.<sup>4</sup> While this alleged incident involved a potential violation of **U.S.** antitrafficking laws, abuse allegations by household workers against foreign diplomats have ranged from potential wage and hour violations to involuntary servitude. For the purposes of this report, we will use the term abuse to include all such allegations.

Most of the household workers brought to the United States by foreign diplomats arrive with A-3 visas--as employees of officials from foreign embassies, consulates, or governments--or with G-5 visas--as employees of foreign officials for international organizations, such as the United Nations or the World Bank.<sup>5</sup> On average, almost 3,500 individuals enter the United States each year on A-3 and G-5 visas. Several U.S. government agencies are involved in efforts to respond to alleged abuse of these visa holders. State grants A-3 and G-5 visas, issues guidance on diplomatic law, and maintains official records regarding the status and immunity level of foreign diplomats in the United States, among other things. The Department of Justice (Justice) investigates trafficking allegations and prosecutes violations of criminal statutes. The Department of Homeland Security (Homeland Security) investigates trafficking allegations and grants T visas to some trafficking victims. These visas allow victims to remain in the United States for up to 4 years, file for permanent residence, and receive certain government services through the Department of Health and Human Services. The Department of Labor (Labor) investigates allegations of wage and hour violations.

In response to your request, we (1) sought to determine how many A-3 and G-5 visa holders have alleged abuse by foreign diplomats with immunity since 2000, (2) reviewed the U.S. government's process for investigating abuse allegations involving foreign diplomats with immunity, and (3) described and assessed how State ensures correct and consistent implementation of A-3 and G-5 visa policies and procedures.

## U.S. GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO ADDRESS ALLEGED ABUSE OF HOUSEHOLD WORKERS BY FOREIGN DIPLOMATS WITH IMMUNITY COULD BE STRENGTHENED GAO Reports July 29, 2008

To determine how many A-3 and G-5 visa holders have alleged abuse by foreign diplomats with immunity, we interviewed U.S. government officials and analyzed data provided by these officials on alleged incidents that they have handled. We requested data on alleged incidents that occurred from calendar years 2000 through 2008. We also met with representatives of 10 nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that provide services to alleged victims of abuse by foreign diplomats and analyzed data they provided on allegations. In addition, we conducted legal research to identify relevant civil lawsuits. To review the U.S. government's process for investigating allegations, we analyzed State's policies for handling allegations of criminal activity by foreign diplomats and interviewed U.S. government officials. To describe and assess how State ensures correct and consistent implementation of A-3 and G-5 visa policies and procedures, we analyzed State's guidance and requirements for adjudicating these visas, and interviewed State officials. We also met with consular officers and reviewed A-3 and G-5 visa files at the U.S. embassies in Peru, the Philippines, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia. We assessed the reliability of data analyzed and found them to be sufficiently reliable for purposes of this report. We conducted this performance audit between October 2007 and July 2008 in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain sufficient, appropriate evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our audit objectives. (App. I provides a detailed discussion of our objectives, scope, and methodology.)

### Results in Brief

We identified 42 distinct A-3 and G-5 visa holders who alleged that they were abused by foreign diplomats with some level of immunity from 2000 through 2008, but the total number of alleged incidents is likely higher. The 42 alleged incidents we confirmed include those identified by federal agencies, NGOs, and legal sources, such as Westlaw. Ten of these alleged incidents resulted in federal human trafficking investigations, most of which remain open. In one instance, Justice determined through its investigation that, absent immunity, it would indict the foreign diplomat's wife. However, the diplomat's home government declined to waive the wife's immunity; thus, Justice could not indict. The diplomat and his wife subsequently left the United States. The total number of alleged incidents of household worker abuse by foreign diplomats with some level of immunity is likely higher than the 42 distinct alleged incidents we have identified for four reasons: household workers' fear of contacting law enforcement authorities, NGOs' need to maintain client confidentiality, limited information on some allegations handled by the U.S. government, and federal agencies' difficulties in tracking household worker abuse allegations and investigations involving foreign diplomats. For example, the Foreign Affairs Manual 6 states that several offices and bureaus within State will provide the Office of Protocol and the Office of the Legal Adviser with reports on all cases that come to their attention, but we found that these offices were not aware of all cases that had been handled by the department. In addition, law enforcement agencies were unable to search their case management databases for investigations involving foreign diplomats because these databases are not designed to track investigations in this manner.

The U.S. government's process for investigating allegations of abuse by foreign diplomats is complicated by three factors: (1) constraints imposed by immunity, (2) household workers' heightened vulnerabilities due to their employers' status, and (3) the length of time it takes for Justice to obtain State's opinion on the use of certain investigative techniques in trafficking investigations involving individuals with varying degrees of immunity and inviolability. Law enforcement's ability to investigate foreign diplomats is limited, particularly if the subject has full immunity or inviolable premises are involved. Diplomats with full immunity have the highest degree of privileges and immunities. They are considered "personally inviolable" and cannot be detained. In addition, their residences are inviolable and cannot be entered or searched without their consent. These limitations are particularly challenging because abuse of household workers typically takes place in the employer's residence and often is not witnessed by individuals outside the employer's family. Furthermore, the victims may not cooperate out of fear that the employers will use their political status and connections to harm them or their families or that they will be deported if they leave their employment situations. Finally, while Justice consults with State to identify investigative techniques that can be used when foreign diplomats have immunity, some recent consultations have taken several months because, according to State and Justice officials, they raised unprecedented questions. Law enforcement officials told us that these lengthy consultations can hamper investigations. Justice would like for State to clarify which techniques are not legally permissible when the subject of the investigation has full or partial immunity but, according to State officials, State prefers to handle these investigations on a case-by-case basis so that it can consider fully the legal and policy implications of each case. State considers the extent to which its opinion on the permissibility of a given technique could be defended legally. State also reviews each case through the lens of reciprocity--assessing how U.S. diplomats abroad might be affected by actions taken toward a foreign diplomat on U.S. soil. While Justice and State agree that it would be helpful to outline an interagency process for

## U.S. GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO ADDRESS ALLEGED ABUSE OF HOUSEHOLD WORKERS BY FOREIGN DIPLOMATS WITH IMMUNITY COULD BE STRENGTHENED GAO Reports July 29, 2008

communicating in a timely manner about the use of investigative techniques in these cases, they have, thus far, not taken any formal steps to create one.

At the four consular posts we visited, we found weaknesses in State's process for ensuring that its policies for issuing A-3 and G-5 visas are implemented correctly and consistently, and some consular officers were unfamiliar with or unclear about aspects of guidance relating to these visas. Our review of employment contracts submitted by A-3 and G-5 visa applicants at the posts we visited showed that, in many cases, they did not include some or all of the criteria required in the Foreign Affairs Manual, such as a guarantee that the employee will receive the minimum or prevailing wage (whichever is greater).<sup>7</sup> Some consular officers we spoke with also were unaware of or unclear about aspects of State's general guidance on A-3 and G-5 visas. For example, several consular officers did not know that, according to State guidance, they should keep electronically scanned copies of the employment contracts on file. Consular officers also were uncertain about the reasons for refusing A-3 or G-5 visas. State's guidance directs consular officers to determine that A-3 and G-5 visa applicants are entering into true employer-employee relationships, in accordance with required terms of their personal employment contracts, but does not explicitly state whether concerns about abuse or mistreatment are sufficient grounds on which to refuse an A-3 or G-5 visa. At one post, officers told us that they can refuse an A-3 or G-5 visa if they believe that the worker may not be treated well. However, officers at two other posts said that it can be very difficult to refuse an A-3 or G-5 visa, even if they believe that the worker will be underpaid or treated poorly, particularly if they lack hard evidence that an applicant has been or could be mistreated. State headquarters officials currently do not alert consular officers if they have information linking a particular foreign diplomat to a pattern of abuse allegations. State is considering steps to clarify its guidance, such as directing consular officers to refuse A-3 or G-5 visas if there is a pattern of past alleged abuse by a particular diplomat, but has not set a time frame for doing so. In addition, State headquarters does not exercise oversight by periodically assessing compliance with A-3 and G-5 visa policies and procedures, but instead relies on individual posts to do so.

In this report, we recommend that the Secretary of State (1) emphasize to the relevant bureaus and offices the importance of the Foreign Affairs Manual requirement to report all cases that come to their attention and create a system for collecting and maintaining records on these cases, (2) work with the Attorney General of the United States and the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish an interagency process outlining agreed-upon policies and time frames for determining which investigative techniques can be used in trafficking investigations involving foreign diplomats, (3) establish a system alerting consular officers to seek guidance from State headquarters before issuing A-3 or G-5 visas to applicants whose prospective employers may have abused their household workers in the past, and (4) enhance oversight by establishing a monitoring system to spot-check compliance with A-3 and G-5 visa policies and procedures. The Departments of State and Justice provided written comments on a draft of our report, which are reprinted in appendixes IV and V, respectively.

State concurred with all four of our recommendations. Regarding the first recommendation, State indicated that it will emphasize to the relevant bureaus and offices the importance of reporting promptly and fully all cases of alleged abuse. State also noted that the Office of Protocol has begun creating a system for collecting and maintaining centralized records on these cases. With regard to our second recommendation, State noted that it will be useful to establish a process to address novel and difficult questions regarding investigative techniques. In response to our third recommendation, State said that it will proactively ``**watch-list**`` known abusers in its Consular Lookout and Support System and will soon provide consular officers improved information regarding A-3 and G-5 cases. Finally, State acknowledged the need for better compliance with A-3 and G-5 visa policies and procedures and agreed to consider our fourth recommendation to spot-check compliance from headquarters.

Justice agreed with our findings and concurred with our second recommendation, noting that agreeing upon time frames for deciding on the use of investigative techniques is particularly important.

In addition, State, Justice, and Homeland Security provided technical comments on a draft of our report, which we incorporated as appropriate. For example, Homeland Security asked to be included in our second recommendation, which initially was directed to the Secretary of State and the Attorney General. We agreed to amend the recommendation accordingly.

The Departments of Labor and Health and Human Services chose not to comment on the draft report.

#### Background

Each year, State issues A-3 and G-5 visas to individuals whose employers are foreign diplomats on official purposes in the United States.<sup>8</sup> Most of these individuals are hired to work for foreign diplomats in the District of Columbia, Mary-

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land, New York, or Virginia. For fiscal years 2000 through 2007, 207 U.S. embassies and consular posts overseas issued 10,386 A-3 visas and 7,522 G-5 visas. The number of A-3 visas decreased<sup>9</sup> during this period by about 56 percent--from 1,780 in fiscal year 2000 to 999 in fiscal year 2007--and the number of G-5 visas issued increased by 21 percent--from 877 in fiscal year 2000 to 1,057 in fiscal year 2007 (see fig. 1). Figure 2 shows the 10 posts that issued the most A-3 and G-5 visas, combined, for fiscal years 2000 through 2007. These 10 posts issued 40 percent of the total number of A-3 and G-5 visas issued during this period. Manila issued the most A-3 and G-5 visas, accounting for almost 10 percent of the total number of these visas issued overseas during this period. U.S. laws provide certain protections for household workers, including individuals brought to the United States on A-3 or G-5 visas, and State, Justice, Homeland Security, and Labor work to respond to allegations of abuse, exploitation, or trafficking of household workers by foreign diplomats. (App. II lists the relevant offices within these departments and their respective responsibilities.) The U.S. government considers involuntary servitude of household workers, as defined under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, to be a severe form of trafficking in persons and a serious criminal offense. Specifically, the act defines severe forms of trafficking in persons, in part, as the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or maintaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of --which permits an alien to be present legally in the United States and to seek work during the investigation--and T nonimmigrant status--subject to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery. Victims of severe forms of trafficking are offered certain accommodations under the act. Household workers also are subject to U.S. laws and covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act, which is the law governing minimum wages and overtime pay. Homeland Security can provide special accommodations to individuals who show that their employers have abused, exploited, or trafficked them, allowing the workers to legally remain in the United States.

These accommodations are continued presence<sup>10</sup>--which permits a visa holder to remain in the United States for up to 4 years, file for adjustment of status to lawful permanent residence, and apply for benefits from the U.S. government such as food stamps and medical assistance. If they leave their employment situation without either of these accommodations, A-3 and G-5 visa holders lose their legal immigration status and could be deported.

Under international and domestic law, the U.S. government, including its law enforcement authorities, extends privileges and immunities to certain foreign diplomats.<sup>12</sup> Employers of A-3 and G-5 visa holders may be entitled to some degree of immunity (full or partial) or may have no immunity at all. An employer with full diplomatic immunity is generally immune from civil or criminal jurisdiction of U.S. courts. Certain employers with partial or "official acts" immunity, such as most individuals employed by international organizations, are immune from civil or criminal jurisdiction of U.S. courts for conduct performed under their official duties or functions. State and the United Nations publish lists of current foreign diplomats who hold diplomatic rank<sup>13</sup> on their Web sites. Appendix III identifies the respective privileges and immunities to which various categories of foreign diplomats are entitled.

#### 42 A-3 and G-5 Visa Holders Have Alleged Abuse Since 2000; Total Number of Alleged Incidents Is Likely Higher

We identified 42 individual A-3 and G-5 visa holders who have alleged abuse by foreign diplomats with some level of immunity in the United States from 2000 through June 2008. However, the total number of alleged incidents is likely to be higher for four reasons: household workers' fear of contacting law enforcement authorities, NGOs' protection of victim confidentiality, limited information on some allegations handled by the U.S. government, and federal departments' difficulties in tracking household worker abuse allegations and investigations involving foreign diplomats.

#### GAO Identified 42 A-3 and G-5 Visa Holders Who Have Alleged Abuse Since 2000

We identified 42 distinct A-3 or G-5 visa holders who, since 2000, have alleged that foreign diplomats<sup>14</sup> with some level of immunity abused them.<sup>15</sup> We confirmed that 17 of the incidents alleged by these A-3 or G-5 visa holders were handled by federal agencies.<sup>16</sup> These 17 incidents<sup>17</sup> can be categorized as follows:

- 10 alleged incidents of human trafficking, which resulted in eight human trafficking investigations;<sup>18</sup>
- one investigation of alleged visa fraud;<sup>19</sup>
- one investigation of an alleged wage and hour violation; and
- five alleged incidents identified by State, some of which may have resulted in investigations, including
- one human trafficking allegation;
- two allegations of physical or verbal abuse; and

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-- two alleged wage and hour violations.

Most of the human trafficking investigations remain open. However, in one of the human trafficking investigations, Justice determined that, absent immunity, it would indict the foreign diplomat's wife. State requested that the diplomat's home government waive immunity, which would allow Justice to indict her. However, the diplomat's home government declined to waive immunity; thus, Justice could not indict. The diplomat and his wife subsequently left the United States, and Justice has since closed this case.

We identified the remaining 25 distinct alleged incidents through legal sources, such as Westlaw, and interviews with NGOs who provided services to the alleged victims, such as assistance in applying for T visas and filing lawsuits against their employers. According to NGOs, 4 of these 25 alleged victims applied for and received T visas. In addition, we determined that civil suits were filed in 9 of these 25 alleged incidents. In most of these lawsuits, household workers sought, in part, to recoup unpaid wages. According to NGOs, the courts dismissed three of the nine lawsuits on the basis that the foreign diplomats had immunity.<sup>20</sup> Of the remaining six lawsuits, NGOs indicated that five were settled out of court, and one resulted in a default judgment because the defendants failed to respond. Although we could not confirm that any of these 25 alleged incidents were investigated or handled by the U.S. government, NGOs told us that they reported 12 of them to federal agencies. They did not report the other 13 alleged incidents.

#### Number of Alleged Incidents Likely Higher Than the 42 We Identified

The total number of alleged incidents of household employee abuse by foreign diplomats with some level of immunity is likely to exceed the total we have identified for four reasons. First, as we have previously reported, trafficking victims are a hidden population because trafficking is a clandestine activity.<sup>21</sup> Trafficking victims often are in a precarious position and may be unwilling or unable to report to, or seek help from, relevant authorities. Moreover, the Department of Health and Human Services reported that victims live daily with inhumane treatment, physical and mental abuse, and threats to themselves or their families back home. Victims of human trafficking may fear or distrust the government and police because they are afraid of being deported or because they come from countries where law enforcement is corrupt and feared. In such circumstances, reporting to the police or seeking help elsewhere requires courage and knowledge of local conditions, which the victims might not have. In addition, some victims may not be permitted to leave their employers' residences, which makes it much more difficult to report their abuse to authorities.

Second, NGOs have provided services to alleged victims who did not want to be identified or who did not want to identify their employers. NGOs we contacted told us that, since 2000, they have received allegations from 66 A-3 or G-5 visa holders stating that they were abused by their employers. However, in 31 of these alleged incidents, the worker and the diplomat involved were not identified either because the worker was too afraid to reveal his or her identity or because the organization agreed to protect the client's confidentiality.

Third, because of federal agencies' need to protect sensitive information, we received limited data on some alleged incidents handled by the U.S. government, and thus did not include those incidents in our total count. In most instances, federal agencies did not reveal the names or countries of origin of the worker and foreign diplomat involved in alleged incidents they had investigated or otherwise handled. It is law enforcement policy not to disclose details of ongoing criminal investigations. Without this information, however, we could not fully reflect federal agencies' data in our overall count of alleged incidents without potentially double counting ones that had already been reported to us by NGOs. For example, although Justice told us of 19 human trafficking investigations involving foreign diplomats with immunity, we could only confirm that 8 of them were included in our count of 42 distinct alleged incidents. Justice officials also told us that there are likely multiple victims in some of the 19 trafficking investigations they reported to us. Furthermore, while Homeland Security identified nine A-3 and G-5 visa holders who received T visas from Homeland Security's Citizenship and Immigration Services, we did not learn the names of their employers, and therefore could not confirm if they held immunity.

Fourth, federal officials said they could not determine definitively the total number of alleged incidents they had handled and could only estimate that number by reviewing specific case files and consulting with knowledgeable staff. Officials had difficulty identifying all alleged incidents or investigations in their records or databases for several reasons as explained below:

-- Justice, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and Diplomatic Security officials could not identify all investigations because their databases are not designed or meant to facilitate searches based on characteristics of the alleged perpetrators, such as whether they are foreign diplomats.

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-- Justice officials told us that the ongoing investigations they identified, primarily by canvassing knowledgeable staff, only went back as far as May 2005.

-- In addition, Immigration and Customs Enforcement could not identify investigations before 2003, because it had difficulties capturing trafficking-in-persons data prior to its creation as part of Homeland Security in that year.<sup>22</sup>

-- State has several offices that receive allegations of abuse by foreign diplomats, but no single office maintains information on all allegations. According to the Foreign Affairs Manual, the Office of Protocol establishes and maintains complete records of each reported case that comes to its attention in which a foreign diplomat with immunity from criminal jurisdiction has been accused of a crime in the United States. State defines "accused of a crime" to mean cases in which Justice has determined that, absent immunity, it would seek to indict. Therefore, although the Office of Protocol receives reports of allegations from other federal agencies,<sup>23</sup> other State bureaus and offices, and some NGOs, it does not systematically maintain records on other ongoing criminal investigations, civil lawsuits that have been filed, or any other allegations.

Moreover, the Foreign Affairs Manual indicates that State's Bureau of International Organizations, the U.S. Mission to the United Nations (USUN), each regional bureau, and Diplomatic Security will provide the Office of Protocol and the Office of the Legal Adviser with reports on all cases that come to their attention. However, there is no mechanism to ensure that these reports are referred to and recorded by the Office of Protocol and the Office of the Legal Adviser. We found that the Office of Protocol was unaware of cases that USUN had handled, and the Office of Protocol and the Office of the Legal Adviser were unaware of all cases that Diplomatic Security had handled.

-- While Labor's system tracks the 30,000 to 40,000 investigations of alleged wage and hour violations it conducts each year, it does not specifically identify those involving foreign diplomats. In addition, although Justice and Homeland Security officials told us they have referred allegations of wage and hour violations to Labor, they could not identify the specific allegations. Labor officials told us that they were aware only of one investigation of an alleged wage and hour violation, but that policy is for field offices to inform headquarters of any allegations of wage and hour violations received involving foreign diplomats.

### Three Factors Complicate Investigations of Abuse by Foreign Diplomats

The U.S. government's process of investigating foreign diplomats for alleged abuse is complicated by three factors--(1) constraints posed by immunity, (2) household workers' heightened vulnerabilities due to their employers' status, and (3) the length of time it takes for Justice to obtain State's opinion on the use of specific investigative techniques in trafficking investigations.

#### Immunity Poses Constraints for Investigations

When investigating foreign diplomats with immunity, law enforcement agents face constraints that become particularly pronounced when the alleged crime has taken place in the diplomat's residence. Investigators' options are most limited when a diplomat has full immunity and is considered to have personal inviolability or when the diplomat's residence is considered inviolable. Diplomats who are personally inviolable cannot be detained, and property that is considered inviolable (including vehicles and residences) cannot be entered or searched without the diplomats' consent. Although the residences of foreign diplomats with partial immunity may be searched, these diplomats cannot be obliged to give evidence concerning matters related to their official duties.

Officials at Justice, Homeland Security, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) told us that these limitations pose particular problems when the allegation involves abuse of a household employee because the worker's mistreatment often occurs in the employer's residence and is not witnessed by individuals outside the employer's family. For example, a Justice official told us that these allegations can be among the most difficult to investigate and prosecute because it is hard for investigators to gather enough corroborating evidence. Investigators are prohibited from observing working and living conditions in the home absent the diplomat's consent, and possible witnesses often include the diplomat's family, who also may have immunity. Instead, investigators often have to rely primarily on interviewing the victim and talking to neighbors who may have observed interactions between the diplomat and the household employee. In some instances, the evidence collected through these methods is considered insufficient to pursue prosecution. These constraints resulted in at least one instance in which law enforcement officials closed an investigation for lack of sufficient evidence after they determined that constraints posed by immunity prevented investigators from talking to witnesses inside a foreign diplomat's home.

#### Diplomats' Status Heightens Workers' Vulnerabilities

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The status of foreign diplomats under investigation can heighten their household workers' sense of vulnerability. For example, household workers may be intimidated by their employers' wealth, political connections, or prominent positions in society. One Justice official told us that abusive situations involving foreign diplomats' household workers have a striking power imbalance because workers often are poor, uneducated, and fear retaliation, not only against themselves but also against family members in their home country. This fear can inhibit household workers from cooperating with investigations, further limiting the investigators' options for collecting evidence.

NGOs told us that foreign diplomats have used immunity as a weapon to frighten their household workers and discourage them from escaping or taking actions to improve their situation. Workers have alleged that their employers threatened their family members back home, told them they would be deported if they did not do as they were instructed, and stated they could treat them as they chose because immunity allows them to do so with impunity. As reported above, we also learned from some NGOs of a number of allegations of household worker abuse by foreign diplomats that were not reported to the U.S. government because the workers were too afraid of potential consequences. In these instances, an investigation could not even be initiated.

#### Lengthy Process for Determining the Permissibility of Using Investigative Techniques Can Hamper Trafficking Investigations

Justice requests State's advice on how diplomatic immunity impacts the legal permissibility of using certain investigative techniques, but the time-consuming process of obtaining State's opinion can hamper investigations. When Justice receives an allegation that a foreign diplomat has abused a household worker, it reviews the facts and determines if they merit opening a trafficking investigation. If Justice decides to open an investigation (or learns that Immigration and Customs Enforcement or the FBI has opened a new investigation), it contacts State to (1) confirm the diplomat's identity and level of immunity; (2) determine how State wants to be kept informed of the investigation; and (3) obtain State's opinion, if necessary, on the use of certain investigative techniques. State officials said that there is no formal requirement for Justice to consult with them on whether certain investigative techniques are permissible, but that it is appropriate and they welcome Justice to do so. According to Justice, because U.S. courts take into account State's interpretation of international treaties and conventions, Justice requests State's legal interpretation on these matters. Although certain techniques, such as searching the residence of a diplomat who has full immunity and inviolability without the diplomat's consent, are clearly prohibited, other techniques may touch the diplomat's "sphere of privacy." According to State officials, the permissibility of these techniques under international law is less clear.<sup>24</sup>

While State can readily confirm a diplomat's identity, State's process of advising on which investigative techniques are legally permissible has, in some instances involving unprecedented circumstances, taken several months. In one instance, a victim agreed to a specific investigative technique that could have allowed Justice to collect important evidence. The victim's lawyers postponed filing a civil suit on her behalf to avoid alerting the diplomat involved that he was under investigation. State spent 6 months deliberating the issue, but did not advise Justice on whether use of this technique was legally permissible. Justice did not use the technique, the victim's lawyers eventually filed suit, and the criminal investigation remains open. In other instances, State has asked Justice to provide specific information that it believes could help it formulate an opinion on whether use of the technique is legally permissible. According to a Justice official, obtaining some of this information can be difficult and time-consuming. Both Justice and State officials agreed that when the issue at hand is relatively straightforward, they reach agreement quickly.

According to State, its internal process of reaching an opinion on the legal advisability of investigative techniques can be time-consuming because State takes both legal and policy considerations into account when considering the advisability of using investigative techniques that fall into the "gray area." For example, the involvement of foreign diplomats can raise sensitivities for the U.S. government. State may need to consider reciprocity, such as how use of a specific technique might affect treatment of U.S. diplomats abroad. Similarly, if the foreign diplomat's country is a close ally of the United States, State also will assess how relations with that country might be affected by use of the investigative technique. The process of addressing these questions through State's supervisory chain of command, which can go above the Assistant Secretary level, if necessary, is lengthy, according to State officials. Once State makes a final determination, a State official conveys to a Justice official the department's opinion on use of the investigative technique in the specific case. This opinion covers both State's legal determination and any policy concerns the department may have. For example, a State official might say that the department could probably defend the use of a technique legally, but it would raise serious reciprocity concerns.

According to Justice, State's policy considerations do not affect its trafficking investigations, but the length of State's deliberative process in determining what is legally permissible can hamper them. The investigative techniques in ques-

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tion are, according to Justice officials, among the most useful for gathering corroborating evidence, but they are unlikely to succeed unless they are implemented quickly. As one Justice official explained, "time is the enemy of successful investigations," meaning that the longer it takes to get approval from State, the greater the likelihood that the investigation will be compromised. For example, the subjects might learn that they are under investigation or they might leave the United States for their next assignment, further limiting the opportunity to collect evidence. Homeland Security officials also told us that any delays are detrimental to the preservation and collection of physical and testimonial evidence.

To expedite the investigative process, Justice officials said that it would be helpful for State to provide them with a list of investigative techniques that, in State's view, are not legally permissible when the subject of the investigation has full or partial immunity. However, State prefers to continue handling these investigations on a case-by-case basis. State officials explained that, while they could make a list of techniques that are clearly acceptable (such as asking the diplomat to agree to an interview) or prohibited (such as searching the residence of a diplomat with full immunity and inviolability), they would rather not indicate the legal permissibility of other, less clear-cut techniques because they want to be able to consider both the legal and policy implications of each case. However, these officials added that they are aware of the need to provide a more timely response to Justice. Officials from both agencies told us they are considering developing an interagency process that would outline time frames for discussing the use of investigative techniques, but they have, thus far, not taken any formal actions toward creating one.

#### Weaknesses Exist in Implementation and Oversight of A-3 and G-5 Visa Policies and Procedures

At the four consular posts we visited, we found weaknesses in State's process for ensuring that its policies for issuing A-3 and G-5 visas are implemented correctly and consistently, and some consular officers were unfamiliar with or unclear about aspects of guidance relating to these visas. Although State headquarters issues A-3 and G-5 policies and procedures, it relies on individual posts to ensure they are implemented correctly and consistently and has not instituted a process to spot-check compliance.

#### GAO Found Weaknesses in the Implementation of A-3 and G-5 Visa Policies

Through our fieldwork, we identified instances in which A-3 and G-5 policies were not implemented correctly and consistently. State requires that A-3 and G-5 visa applicants submit employment contracts signed by both the employer and employee that include

- a guarantee that the employee will be compensated at the state or federal minimum wage or prevailing wage, whichever is greater;
- a statement by the employee that he or she will not accept any other employment while working for the employer;
- a statement by the employer that he or she will not withhold the passport of the employee; and
- a statement indicating that both parties understand that the employee cannot be required to remain on the premises after working hours without compensation.

However, the contracts we reviewed<sup>25</sup> did not include at least one of State's requirements 71 percent of the time at one post, 35 percent at the second, 23 percent at the third, and 6 percent at the fourth.<sup>26</sup>

-- In some cases, the contracts were clearly deficient in one or more areas. For example, one contract we reviewed showed that the employee would receive \$5 per hour (below the minimum wage) and that the employee would reimburse her employer for items received. This particular contract also did not include a statement that the employee could not be required to remain on the premises after working hours without compensation.

-- In other cases, the contracts included statements that appeared to comply with State's requirements, but also contained information that contradicted these statements. For example, some contracts stated that "the normal working hours of the second party [employee] shall be at the prevailing wage for a 40 hours [sic] week." However, these contracts also showed that the employees would be paid well below the prevailing wage for their occupation and intended destination.

Our review of employment contracts revealed other shortcomings and raised questions about whether the employee would be paid fairly.

-- A-3 and G-5 visa applicants must submit contracts in English and a language understood by the applicants to demonstrate they understand their duties and rights regarding salary and working conditions. However, at one post where con-

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sular officers told us that A-3 and G-5 visa applicants rarely speak or read English, none of the contracts we reviewed was in a language other than English.<sup>27</sup>

-- We identified some contracts where the employee would be paid overtime ``in accordance with [the foreign diplomat's home] embassy regulations.``

-- In another contract, the employee's overtime hourly rate was lower than her wage for normal working hours.

### Some Consular Officers Unfamiliar with or Unclear about Aspects of A-3 and G-5 Policies and Procedures

At the four posts we visited, we also found that some consular officers were unfamiliar with or unclear about certain aspects of State's guidance on A-3 and G-5 visas.

#### Requiring a Diplomatic Note

According to State's guidance, A-3 and G-5 visa applications must be accompanied by a diplomatic note from the appropriate foreign mission or international organization that identifies the applicant's employer and confirms the employer's official A or G status. Some consular officers overseas told us that they believed a note was not required if they could identify the employer and confirm his or her status through The Office of Foreign Missions Information System (TOMIS), a database of foreign diplomats posted to the United States, which, according to the Foreign Affairs Manual, can be a useful tool for consular officers to confirm a diplomat's status. However, senior consular officials at State headquarters told us that TOMIS may contain inaccurate or outdated information and confirmed that a diplomatic note was in fact required.

#### Informing A-3 and G-5 Visa Applicants of Their Rights

State's guidance also includes provisions encouraging consular officers to help educate A-3 and G-5 visa applicants about their rights under U.S. laws, but some officers we spoke with were unaware of these provisions. Consular officers are required to interview all A-3 and G-5 visa applicants. State recommends that officers use the interview to advise applicants in a language they understand that the U.S. government considers involuntary servitude of household workers to be a severe form of trafficking in persons and a serious criminal offense and that victims of involuntary servitude are offered protection under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. Officers are encouraged to make A-3 and G-5 applicants aware that the telephone number for police and emergency services is 911, and that there is a telephone hotline for reporting abuse of household workers and other trafficking-related crimes.<sup>28</sup>

State also reminds consular posts that an antitrafficking brochure titled ``Be Smart, Be Safe`` is available as a handout to household worker applicants. However, while several officers said they try to explain to A-3 and G-5 visa applicants that they have rights under U.S. laws, the officers also were unaware of the telephone hotline, State's advice to refer workers to 911, or the brochure. None of the posts we visited made copies of the ``Be Smart, Be Safe`` brochure available to visa applicants, although two of them had created one-page informational handouts for A-3 and G-5 visa applicants.<sup>29</sup> At one of these posts, officers generally did not speak with applicants about their rights but instead relied on giving them the one-page handout. NGOs and alleged victims we spoke with told us that measures to educate A-3 and G-5 visa applicants are important. For example, one alleged victim said that U.S. embassies abroad should tell domestic workers coming to the United States that they have rights because, in her experience, one of the ways that employers abuse their workers is to tell them that they are still under the laws of their home country. She added that, specifically, embassies should give A-3 and G-5 visa applicants information about whom to contact if they experience physical or psychological abuse. Another worker, whose employer was investigated and sent home for allegedly trafficking household workers, told her attorneys that she knew to seek help because a consular officer had told her about her rights under U.S. law when she applied for her A-3 visa.

#### Scanning Employment Contracts

Another area of the guidance that posts we visited were largely unaware of was the March 2007 direction from State headquarters to electronically scan copies of A-3 and G-5 employment contracts into the Consular Consolidated Database, which contains information on visa applicants. Two of the posts we visited had not scanned any of their contracts into the database, one had scanned about half of the contracts we reviewed, and the remaining one had only scanned a few. A State official in Washington explained that scanning documents is useful because, in cases of alleged abuse, accessing a copy of the contract provides evidence that the diplomat had agreed to provide better working conditions.<sup>30</sup> NGOs also emphasized the importance of being able to access employment contracts. For example, an NGO told us that in one case, a foreign diplomat gave his worker a contract to present when applying for a G-5 visa that said that she

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would receive \$1,200 per month, but gave her a different contract when she arrived in the United States that said she would receive only \$425 per month. The organization is now trying to locate a copy of the original contract.

Criteria for Refusing A-3 and G-5 Visas Finally, consular officers at the posts we visited were uncertain about the reasons for which they could refuse A-3 and G-5 visas. State's guidance directs consular officers to determine that A-3 and G-5 visa applicants are entering into true employer-employee relationships, in accordance with required terms of their personal employment contracts. However, it does not explicitly state if concerns about abuse or mistreatment are sufficient grounds on which to refuse an A-3 or G-5 visa. At one post we visited, consular officers told us they were comfortable refusing these visas, particularly if there were indications that the worker might not be treated well. They might refuse the visa if the applicant was under age 18 or if the employer resisted requests by the consular officers to interview the applicant alone. In an attempt to ensure better treatment of household workers, that post instituted a policy of preferring individuals to have worked for the sponsoring diplomat for 1 year before applying for an A-3 visa.<sup>31</sup> While the consular officers at this post said they believed they had considerable latitude to refuse A-3 or G-5 visas, other officers we spoke with said that they did not. For example, the Deputy Chief of Mission at one post told us that he "wished he could refuse more A-3 and G-5 visas," but that he was unsure of consular officers' ability to deny A-3 and G-5 visa applicants. Several consular officers echoed these comments, noting that, without hard evidence that an applicant has been or could be mistreated, it is difficult to deny an A-3 or G-5 visa. For example, a consular officer at one post we visited told us that, in one case, she was concerned that the applicant had never met her employer, but her supervisors told her that as long as the applicant had a valid employment contract, she had to issue the visa.

State is considering steps to address confusion about refusing A-3 and G-5 visas, but has not taken actions to implement them. Consular officials in Washington told us that, while it is appropriate and even expected for consular officers to refuse A-3 and G-5 visas if they believe that visa applicants may be abused by their prospective employers, the officers have "little to go on beyond the contract" and it is impossible to refuse a visa based on something that has not happened or will not happen for another 6 months. State is considering adding specific provisions to the Foreign Affairs Manual outlining certain circumstances in which these visas should be denied. These provisions might place a heavier burden on lower-ranking foreign diplomats to document sufficient means to employ household staff under the contractual requirements stipulated for A-3 and G-5 visas. The provisions also might result in refusal of an A-3 or G-5 visa if a particular diplomat is linked to a pattern of employee disappearance, abuse allegations, or other irregularities. A State official told us the department is drafting possible language for these additional provisions to the Foreign Affairs Manual, but officials have not reached internal agreement on final language and have no timetable for doing so. In addition, officials in State headquarters do not currently alert consular officers if they have information that could help in the adjudication of an A-3 or G-5 visa based on a pattern of employee disappearance, abuse allegations, or other irregularities because that information is not included in State's databases. For example, headquarters does not alert consular officers to seek guidance if a foreign diplomat is under investigation for trafficking or if a foreign diplomat has employed anyone who subsequently received a T visa.

#### State Headquarters Does Not Routinely Assess Compliance with A-3 and G-5 Visa Policies and Procedures

Consular officials in Washington told us they rely on individual posts to ensure correct and consistent implementation of A-3 and G-5 policies and procedures and do not independently monitor compliance on a routine basis. Supervisory officials at consular posts abroad review a selection of visas that were issued or refused at that post each day. The reviews these officials conduct may cover some of the A-3 and G-5 visas that were adjudicated, but not all of them.

Furthermore, officials conduct these reviews through the Consular Consolidated Database, so they are unlikely to review supporting documents for A-3 and G-5 visas, such as employment contracts and diplomatic notes, which we found were usually not scanned into the database. Consular officials at State headquarters told us they provide advice to individual posts on an as-needed basis, but generally rely on supervisory reviews to ensure compliance with State policies and procedures because it is not their role or responsibility to oversee the consular posts in this regard.<sup>32</sup> As such, they do not routinely and independently monitor compliance with A-3 and G-5 policies and procedures.

#### Conclusions

The people who come to the United States on A-3 and G-5 visas are among the most vulnerable who enter our borders legally. They are often poor, uneducated, and unfamiliar with their rights under U.S. law. If they find themselves in an abusive situation, their ability to hold their employers accountable can be limited, particularly if their employers hold full diplomatic immunity and inviolability. Although State has expressed concerns that some foreign diplomats may be abusing their household workers, it has not systematically collected and maintained information on cases of alleged abuse that have come to its attention. In addition, State has not always ensured that the visa policies and procedures in

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place to provide protections for these most vulnerable individuals have been correctly and consistently implemented, such as the policy requiring certain elements within these workers' employment contracts. Furthermore, if officials at State headquarters have information linking a particular diplomat to a pattern of employee disappearance, abuse allegations, or other irregularities, they do not routinely alert consular officers to seek guidance. Finally, the U.S. government's process for investigating trafficking of household workers by foreign diplomats has, in some instances, been hampered by delays in coordination between State and Justice on the use of investigative techniques. In addressing these problems, the U.S. government can strengthen its commitment to combating human trafficking within the United States.

#### Recommendations for Executive Action

To improve the U.S. government's process for preventing and responding to allegations of household employee abuse by foreign diplomats, we are making four recommendations.

1. To ensure that the Office of Protocol and the Office of the Legal Adviser are aware of all cases involving alleged abuse of household workers by foreign diplomats that have come to the attention of the department, we recommend that the Secretary of State (1) emphasize to the relevant bureaus and offices the importance of the Foreign Affairs Manual requirement to report all cases that come to their attention and (2) direct the Office of Protocol and the Office of the Legal Adviser to create a system for collecting and maintaining records on these cases.
2. To assist in timely handling of future investigations, we recommend that the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the Secretary of Homeland Security establish an interagency process outlining agreed-upon policies and time frames for determining which investigative techniques can be used in trafficking investigations involving foreign diplomats.
3. We recommend that the Secretary of State direct the Bureau of Consular Affairs, in coordination with the Office of Protocol and the Office of the Legal Adviser, to establish a system alerting consular officers to seek guidance from State headquarters before issuing A-3 or G-5 visas to applicants whose prospective employers may have abused their household workers in the past. For example, if State headquarters is aware that a foreign diplomat is under investigation for alleged human trafficking, it could place an alert in the system advising consular officers to request guidance should an individual apply for an A-3 or G-5 visa to work for that diplomat.
4. To better ensure correct and consistent implementation of A-3 and G-5 visa policies and procedures, particularly those that outline requirements for employment contracts, we recommend that the Secretary of State enhance oversight by establishing a system to spot-check compliance with these policies and procedures. This spot-check system would allow headquarters to assess compliance without dedicating the resources needed to review all A-3 and G-5 visas issued in a given year and could be targeted at posts that issue high numbers of A-3 or G-5 visas or that have identified difficulties interpreting guidance on these visas classes.

#### Agency Comments and Our Evaluation

We provided a draft of this report to the Departments of State, Justice, Homeland Security, Labor, and Health and Human Services for their comments. State and Justice provided written comments on the draft, which we have reprinted in appendixes IV and V, respectively.

State agreed with all four of our recommendations. Regarding the first recommendation, State indicated that it will emphasize to the relevant bureaus and offices the importance of reporting promptly and fully all cases of alleged abuse of household workers by foreign diplomats. State also noted that the Office of Protocol is now creating a system for collecting and maintaining centralized records on these cases that would allow for ready access to records of cases that involve individuals with immunity. Regarding our second recommendation, State said that, while most investigations go forward without consultations on investigative techniques, it will be useful to establish a process to address novel and difficult questions regarding investigative techniques.

In response to our third recommendation, State said that it will place known abusers of household workers in the Consular Lookout and Support System, a database designed to screen visa applicants and maintain **watch lists**. State will also upgrade consular officers' access to TOMIS to provide improved information regarding A-3 and G-5 cases. State responded to our last recommendation by acknowledging the need for better compliance with policies and procedures to ensure that A-3 and G-5 employment contracts contain all required elements and are electronically scanned for future reference in case of alleged abuse. State reiterated that it is primarily the responsibility of senior consular managers at posts to ensure compliance with visa adjudication procedures and practices in their consular sections, but added that it

U.S. GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO ADDRESS ALLEGED ABUSE OF HOUSEHOLD WORKERS BY  
FOREIGN DIPLOMATS WITH IMMUNITY COULD BE STRENGTHENED GAO Reports July 29, 2008

will consider and review whether spot-checking compliance from headquarters is appropriate and consistent with judicious use of limited resources. As indicated in our fourth recommendation, we believe that spot-checking is important for enhancing oversight and could be targeted in such a way as to minimize use of resources.

Justice generally agreed with our findings, particularly our finding that obstacles to investigating allegations of household worker abuse are compounded when employers have diplomatic immunity. Justice also concurred with our second recommendation, highlighting the importance of agreeing upon time frames for determining which investigative techniques can be used, so that criminal investigations are not compromised.

State, Justice, and Homeland Security provided technical comments, which we incorporated as appropriate. For example, Homeland Security asked to be included in the second recommendation, which was initially directed to the Secretary of State and the Attorney General. Specifically, Homeland Security officials stated that Immigration and Customs Enforcement should participate in the recommended interagency process because the introduction of persons into the United States for the purpose of exploitation is a primary law enforcement responsibility and area of expertise of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. We agreed to include the Secretary of Homeland Security in the second recommendation.

The Departments of Labor and Health and Human Services did not provide comments on the draft report.

We are sending copies of this report to other interested Members of Congress. We are also sending copies to the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Labor, and the Secretary of Health and Human Services. In addition, the report will be available at no charge on the GAO Web site at <http://www.gao.gov>.

If you or your staffs have any questions about this report, please contact me at (202) 512-9601 or [melitot@gao.gov](mailto:melitot@gao.gov). Contact points for our offices of Congressional Relations and Public Affairs may be found on the last page of this report. GAO staff who made significant contributions to this report are listed in appendix VI.

Thomas Melito Director, International Affairs and Trade

Footnotes:

1For the purposes of this report, the term "foreign diplomats" is defined to include members of diplomatic missions (diplomatic agents, administrative and technical staff, and service staff), individuals assigned to consular posts (consular officers, consular employees, and honorary consuls), and employees of international organizations or members of national missions to such international organizations.

2Under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, victims of severe forms of trafficking are defined, in part, as persons subject to the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of persons for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion, for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery. Congress enacted the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (Public L. No. 106-386) in 2000 and reauthorized and amended this act in 2003 and again in 2005 (Public L. Nos. 108-193 and 109-164).

3Foreign diplomats may be entitled to some degree of immunity (full or partial) or may have no immunity at all. Foreign diplomats' property also may be inviolable, meaning that it cannot be entered or searched without the diplomats' consent. See app. III for more information on the respective privileges and immunities to which various categories of foreign diplomats are entitled.

4In 2006, the woman's lawyers filed a new lawsuit on her behalf, arguing that because the diplomat and his wife have left the United States, they no longer hold criminal and civil immunity for activities unrelated to their official acts. That litigation is pending.

5Foreign officials for international organizations may be employees of these organizations or members of diplomatic missions to the organizations. In addition, if a foreign diplomat is traveling to the United States on unofficial business, his or her household workers may receive B-1 visas.

6The Foreign Affairs Manual is a State publication that outlines guidance and requirements for State Department employees.

7The federal minimum wage was recently increased to \$6.55 per hour. Many states also have minimum wage laws. In cases where an employee is subject to both the state and federal minimum wage laws, the employee is entitled to the

## U.S. GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO ADDRESS ALLEGED ABUSE OF HOUSEHOLD WORKERS BY FOREIGN DIPLOMATS WITH IMMUNITY COULD BE STRENGTHENED GAO Reports July 29, 2008

higher of the two minimum wages. The prevailing wage rate is defined as the average wage paid to similarly employed workers in the requested occupation in the area of intended employment.

8An employer must be entitled to an A-1 or A-2 nonimmigrant visa classification in order to bring individuals under A-3 visa status to the United States to work in his or her home. An employer must be entitled to a G-1, G-2, G-3, or G-4 nonimmigrant visa classification in order to bring individuals under G-5 visa status to the United States to work in his or her home. (See Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended, %101(a)(15)(A)(iii) and %101(a)(15)(G)(v)). As a matter of policy, A-3 and G-5 visas are issued for a maximum period of 24 months, or less, if called for by the reciprocity schedule of the country concerned. In addition, the validity of an A-3 or G-5 visa may not exceed the validity of the employer's visa.

9The number of A-3 visa applications also declined during this period. State officials told us they could not attribute any policy changes, procedural reasons, or particular events to the decline in A-3 visa issuances.

10Continued presence is granted to trafficking victims in accordance with Section 107(c)(3) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. Pursuant to 28 C.F.R. Part 1100.35, Homeland Security has the authority to grant continued presence to victims of severe forms of trafficking who are potential witnesses to such trafficking in order to ensure prosecution of those responsible.

11T nonimmigrant status is granted for victims of trafficking under INA Sec. 101(a)(15)(T). To qualify for a T visa, a victim must be present in the United States, American Samoa, or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as a result of trafficking. The individual also must be a victim of a severe form of trafficking who would suffer extreme hardship upon removal and has complied with any reasonable request for assistance in the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking. The victim does not need to comply with requests for assistance in investigations and prosecutions if he or she is less than 18 years old.

12The United States has entered into a number of treaties that afford immunities. These treaties include the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, 21 U.S.T. 77, T.I.A.S., 6820, the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, 23 U.S.T. 3227, T.I.A.S. 7502, and the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States of America Regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, 21 U.S.T. 1418, as well as bilateral agreements with certain countries. The U.S. Congress also enacted legislation, the International Organizations Immunities Act (22 U.S.C. %% 288 et seq.), to extend certain privileges, exemptions, and immunities to international organizations and their employees.

13State's Office of Protocol makes available the following online publications: Diplomatic List (<http://www.state.gov/s/cpr/rls/dpl/>), which lists members of the diplomatic staff who have diplomatic rank and their spouses, and Foreign Consular Offices (<http://www.state.gov/s/cpr/rls/fco/>), which lists recognized consular officers in the United States. The United Nations publishes lists of diplomatic members and their spouses through an online publication known as the Blue Book (<http://missions.un.int/protocol/bluebook.html>).

1432.5 percent of these foreign diplomats came from Africa, 30 percent from the Near East, 20 percent from the Western Hemisphere, 15 percent from Asia, and 2.5 percent from Europe.

15We only counted cases if we could determine the name of the diplomat involved and confirm that he or she held immunity, or if we received enough information from a law enforcement source to ensure that a diplomat with immunity was involved and that the case was not duplicative with any other case. Because GAO is not a law enforcement agency, we did not independently assess the credibility of these alleged incidents.

16Some allegations may be handled by both the U.S. government and an NGO. To avoid double counting the total number of allegations, we report each allegation under only one source. For example, if the U.S. government opened an investigation after receiving an allegation from an NGO, we included the case in our count of allegations handled by federal agencies, rather than in our count of allegations handled by NGOs.

17Each alleged incident may involve several instances of alleged abuse. For example, one alleged incident may involve different forms of abuse (such as verbal and physical abuse), as well as multiple instances of the same type of abuse.

18One of these investigations was opened in response to three separate allegations against the same foreign diplomat. In addition, civil suits were filed in three of these eight investigations. Justice officials told us that they have opened 19 trafficking investigations involving foreign diplomats with immunity since 2005. We confirmed that 8 of them were included in our count of 42 distinct alleged incidents.

## U.S. GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO ADDRESS ALLEGED ABUSE OF HOUSEHOLD WORKERS BY FOREIGN DIPLOMATS WITH IMMUNITY COULD BE STRENGTHENED GAO Reports July 29, 2008

19In this incident, a foreign diplomat brought an individual to the United States on an A-3 visa and then transferred her to his relatives, who allegedly abused her.

20In one of these cases, the judgment was later reversed on appeal, when the appellate court, in part, determined that the diplomat's employment of a household worker was not an act performed in the exercise of his consular functions and therefore he was not entitled to claim immunity under the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

21GAO, Human Trafficking: Better Data, Strategy, and Reporting Needed to Enhance U.S. Antitrafficking Efforts Abroad, GAO-06-825 (Washington, D.C.: July 18, 2006). See also GAO, Human Trafficking: Monitoring and Evaluation of International Projects Are Limited, but Experts Suggest Improvements, GAO-07-1034 (Washington, D.C.: July 26, 2007).

22GAO, Human Trafficking: A Strategic Framework Could Help Enhance the Interagency Collaboration Needed to Effectively Combat Trafficking Crimes, GAO-07-915 (Washington, D.C.: July 26, 2007).

23Justice officials routinely report human trafficking investigations involving foreign diplomats to State's Office of the Legal Adviser. According to an official with the Office of the Legal Adviser, these reports are passed on to the Office of Protocol.

24We do not identify these techniques in this report because Justice and Homeland Security consider this information to be law-enforcement sensitive.

25We requested to review all employment contracts submitted by A-3 and G-5 visa applicants since March 2007 at the four consular posts we visited. We chose this date because State issued updated guidance to posts on A-3 and G-5 visas at that time. However, for reasons outlined in app. I, we were unable to review all relevant contracts at three of the four posts. For these three posts, we reviewed a random sample of cases to minimize any biases in selection of cases for review. We reviewed 45 contracts at the first post, 20 at the second, 57 at the third, and 16 at the fourth.

26This post has created a template employment contract for A-3 and G-5 visa applicants that meets State's requirements and is available on its Web site.

27It is possible that a contract in a language familiar to the applicant was presented at the interview, but was not maintained on file at the consular post. However, consular officers at this post did not express familiarity with the requirement that A-3 and G-5 visa applicants present contracts in a language that they understand and one officer told us that A-3 and G-5 contracts are always in English.

28The guidance refers consular officers to the trafficking hotline operated by the Department of Health and Human Services-- 1 (888) 373-7888. Justice also operates a trafficking hotline, which some NGOs have called on behalf of foreign diplomats' household workers. This toll-free hotline is 1 (888) 428-7581.

29One of the handouts directs applicants to the "Be Smart, Be Safe" brochure on State's Web site. However, neither of the handouts is as thorough as State's brochure in explaining what trafficking is, how to avoid becoming a trafficking victim, and how to get help if needed.

30According to State officials, accessing a copy of the contract is also useful because its scanned image may provide criminal investigators with evidence of visa fraud, as the issuance of the relevant A-3 or G-5 visa was based on the contract.

31Consular officials in Washington told us that instituting this type of policy is not appropriate.

32Although State has instituted Consular Management Assessment Teams to review select consular posts for, among other things, training and knowledge of consular functions, supervisory reviews of daily adjudications, and other visa issues, these teams are focused primarily on preventing visa malfeasance and are, therefore, unlikely to assess posts' compliance with A-3 and G-5 visa policies and procedures.

**LOAD-DATE:** July 30, 2008

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**REQUESTOR:** HUMAN RIGHTS

U.S. GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO ADDRESS ALLEGED ABUSE OF HOUSEHOLD WORKERS BY  
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Hindustan Times

**June** 8, 2008 Sunday 5:51 AM EST

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING

**BYLINE:** Report from the Assam Tribune brought to you by HT Syndication.

**LENGTH:** 395 words

**DATELINE:** Guwahati

Guwahati, June 8 -- The United State's action in placing India along with China on its **watch list** for not doing enough in combating human trafficking, once again brings to the fore this deep rooted problem. Though human trafficking is a global phenomenon, it is very acute in India. Along with a host of factors; the economic growth too is accentuating the problem of human trafficking.

It is quite disconcerting that the report released by the **US State Department** on Wednesday revealed that the Indian authorities are not fully complying with the minimum standards for elimination of **human trafficking**. **The report** also pointed out that bonded labour is rampant in India, with clothing and brick making being two major booming industries in which forced labour, debt bondage and hazard condition are common. Commercial sexual exploitation, and forced labour are the main driving force behind human trafficking. The **US** report also slammed the weak implementation of policies and corrupt officials for failure to effectively confront the scourge. Along with several parts of the country, the North -eastern region has the dubious distinction of being an area where human trafficking is rampant. Taking advantage of poverty, illiteracy and unemployment, well organized groups are luring away women and minors outside the region. Most of such victims of human trafficking are sold off in the red light areas of Mumbai, Delhi and Siliguri. Human trafficking in the North East has reached an alarming proportion. Nothing worthwhile is being done to prevent it. At times the authorities do swing into action. However, only the agents are arrested while the kingpins remain elusive. To check this menace the authorities along with voluntary organizations should identify the vulnerable areas. Awareness camps should be conducted to ensure that the agents of human traffickers cannot dupe the gullible people. The authorities should also initiate action to end complicity of law enforcing officials in trafficking. Strong deterrent action must be taken against those engaged in this heinous criminal activity. Rehabilitation schemes should be formulated to put life back in track for the rescued victims of human trafficking. The society must come forward and assist the authorities in tackling this menace.

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US adds Moldova, Fiji, New Guinea, to human trafficking list Deutsche Presse-Agentur June 4, 2008 Wednesday 6:25 PM EST

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Deutsche Presse-Agentur

**June** 4, 2008 Wednesday 6:25 PM EST

## **US adds Moldova, Fiji, New Guinea, to human trafficking list**

**SECTION:** POLITICS

**LENGTH:** 384 words

**DATELINE:** Washington

DPA POLITICS US Diplomacy Crime US adds Moldova, Fiji, New Guinea, to human trafficking list Washington

The United States on Wednesday added three new countries - Moldova, Fiji and Papua New Guinea - to its list of countries that could face sanctions for failing to curb human trafficking and the sex slave trade.

The **US State Department's** annual **report on human trafficking** again listed **US** allies Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Oman as countries that have not taken adequate steps to halt the flow of forced prostitution and other forms of slave labour.

The remaining eight countries kept on the worst-offenders list from last year were Algeria, Myanmar, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Qatar, Sudan and Syria.

The report removed six countries from the worst-offenders list from last year and moved them to a **"watch list"**: Bahrain, Equatorial Guinea, Malaysia, Uzbekistan and Venezuela.

The report identified two categories of human trafficking - sex trafficking and forced labour - and highlighted the special plight of "highly vulnerable" North Korean refugees, especially woman and girls on the dangerous crossing points of the Tumen and Yalu River borders, who are then exploited in China.

The **US State Department**, which produced the report, also said that boys are increasingly becoming victims of commercial sexual exploitation, citing Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Costa Rica, Sri Lanka, Mexico, Dominican Republic and Thailand.

"Costa Rican men prefer to pick up boys from the street and take them somewhere discreet to use them rather than to enter into open homosexual relationships with their social and/or age equals," the report said.

US adds Moldova, Fiji, New Guinea, to human trafficking list Deutsche Presse-Agentur June 4, 2008 Wednesday 6:25 PM EST

The **Trafficking in Persons Report** faulted close ally Saudi Arabia for failing to stem the exploitation of legally imported cheap labour from Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Kenya, Nigeria and Ethiopia.

Workers from those countries often "voluntarily" travel to Saudi Arabia, only to "face conditions of involuntary servitude, including restrictions on movement, withholding of passports, threats, physical or sexual abuse, and non-payment of wages."

The report said that women from Yemen, Morocco, Pakistan, Nigeria, Ethiopia and Thailand are "also trafficked into Saudi Arabia for commercial sexual exploitation."

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Human trafficking is slavery and must be battled, celebrities and UN official say Associated Press International  
February 13, 2008 Wednesday 11:32 PM GMT

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Associated Press International

**February** 13, 2008 Wednesday 11:32 PM GMT

## **Human trafficking is slavery and must be battled, celebrities and UN official say**

**BYLINE:** By VERONIKA OLEKSYN, Associated Press Writer

**SECTION:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**LENGTH:** 860 words

**DATELINE:** VIENNA Austria

Human trafficking is a modern form of slavery and cannot be tolerated, a senior U.N. official and celebrities said Wednesday in urging action against the global "scourge."

Pop star Ricky Martin, Oscar-winning actress Emma Thompson, Egyptian first lady Suzanne Mubarak and Antonio Maria Costa, the United Nation's top anti-crime official, were among those to make the appeal on the first day of a U.N. gathering of experts, legislators, law enforcement teams, business leaders, non-governmental organizations and victims.

The three-day event, which is expected to draw at least 1,000 participants from more than 100 countries, is not only aimed at urging action.

Through workshops and other events, participants will explore factors that make people vulnerable to the crime and discuss its impact on their lives, their communities and the economies of places where victims are recruited and where they end up.

"Two hundred years after the end of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, we have the obligation to fight a crime that has no place in the 21st century," Costa, head of the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime, told the forum's opening session.

"Let's call it what it is: modern slavery."

According to U.N. estimates, some 2.5 million people are involved in forced labor at any given time as a result of trafficking, and every continent and type of economy is affected by the crime.

The U.N. says 161 countries are reported to be affected and the majority of victims are between the ages of 18 and 24. An estimated 1.2 million children are trafficked each year.

"How can we allow so many children to be kidnapped and exploited?" said Mubarak, president of the Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement, which aims to enhance the conditions conducive to sustainable peace and human security.

Mubarak, in outlining her country's efforts to tackle the issue, said the problem was "growing in severity and magnitude" and called it a "complex, multidimensional and ever-increasing scourge."

Martin, who set up the Ricky Martin Foundation to advocate for the well-being of children around the globe, said he first witnessed the horror of human trafficking during a trip to India several years ago.

"My hope is to secure every child the right to be a child," the five-time Grammy winner said. "Human trafficking has no place in our world today and my slogan is react. It's time."

During the opening session, the global coalition Stop the Traffik handed Costa a petition of more than 1.5 million signatures that called for just that.

"This is a historic global declaration," Stop the Traffik's chairman, Steve Chalke, said in a statement. "Millions of people are not only aware of this crime but committed to do something for the millions who are trafficked."

Human trafficking is slavery and must be battled, celebrities and UN official say Associated Press International  
February 13, 2008 Wednesday 11:32 PM GMT

Often, victims are tricked into thinking they will be brought to a better life.

Thompson, who chairs the Helen Bamber Foundation, a Britain-based group that helps rebuild the lives of victims of cruelty, told the story of a young victim from Moldova who was searching for a better life when she was lured to England by a local woman she befriended and trusted. Once she got to Britain, she was forced into prostitution.

Costa warned that efforts to fight the crime were inadequate and that the exact magnitude of the problem has yet to be nailed down.

While the moral imperative to stop human trafficking has found its way onto policy agendas, governments are still not doing all they should, Costa warned.

"Our girls are beautiful ... it's only prostitution,' high-ranking officials have told me," Costa said, referring to trafficking as a "monster" lurking in the shadows.

At a news conference later, Costa said "benign neglect" by government officials and concerns about protecting national reputations were hampering the fight.

Estimated annual profits from the exploitation of trafficked, forced labor is around \$31US.6 million (euro21.7 million), according to material provided by the U.N. Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, launched by UNODC in March 2007 with a grant from the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi. UN.GIFT is convening this week's forum.

The **United States**, which placed the United Arab Emirates on a **watch list** in its 2007 **Trafficking in Persons Report**, is represented by Mark Lagon, director of the **State Department's** Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons.

In a statement delivered to participants, Lagon said it was important to address the demand for commercial sex and goods made by forced or child labor, as well as the lack of government commitment, weak laws to hold exploiters to full account and corruption by officials.

"It is not just poverty and desperation that make human trafficking possible, but also the extreme greed and sadism of the exploiters and the catalyst of corruption," Lagon said.

On the Net:

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: <http://www.unodc.org/>

Ricky Martin Foundation: <http://www.rickymartinfoundation.org/english/default.aspx>

Helen Bamber Foundation: <http://www.helenbamber.org/>

Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement:  
<https://www.womenforpeaceinternational.com/EN/Index.aspx>

STOP THE TRAFFIK: <http://www.stopthetraffik.org/language.aspx>

**LOAD-DATE:** February 14, 2008

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**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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States News Service

**January** 10, 2008 Thursday

## CORNYN STATEMENT ON NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS DAY

**BYLINE:** States News Service**LENGTH:** 723 words**DATELINE:** COLLEGE STATION

The following information was released by Texas Senator John Cornyn:

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, made the following statement Thursday in advance of the first observance of the National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness on January 11. Sens. Cornyn and Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., introduced and passed a bipartisan resolution in the Senate last June in support of establishing the awareness day, which is intended to be observed annually.

We must continue working to eradicate human trafficking by raising awareness and strengthening efforts to combat it at home and abroad. This remains one of the most pressing human rights concerns of our time.

Americans would be shocked to learn that slavery still exists today not just in remote parts of the world, but hidden away in communities across our nation. So we need to improve protection of victims, punish the criminals and prevent more innocent people from suffering this fate.

This national awareness day will focus attention on a terrible crime that targets primarily women and children, and will help generate opposition to it.

Sen. Cornyn's resolution states: Congress supports the goals and ideals of observing the National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness on January 11 of each year and all other efforts to raise awareness of and opposition to human trafficking.

There are more than 12 million people in forced labor, bonded labor, forced child labor and sexual servitude at any given time, according to estimates by the International Labor Organization.

Background on Sen. Cornyn's efforts to combat human trafficking

Sen. Cornyn introduced the Stop Trafficking of Persons (STOP) Act, in the 108th Congress, to strengthen **U.S.** efforts to combat human trafficking. This legislation would specify that governments engaging in human trafficking are not immune from prosecution within the **U.S.** court system; require the **U.S. State Department** to include in its annual **Trafficking in Persons Report** accounts of steps foreign governments are taking to combat the sex tourism industry; and ensure that nongovernmental organizations investigating human trafficking in foreign countries are not required by **U.S.** law to notify foreign governments or targets of investigative activities.

Sen. Cornyn introduced the End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act of 2005, which built on the STOP Act by continuing to combat commercial sex trade activities by targeting the demand for this atrocity. This legislation would protect children from being exploited by these activities, prohibit the operation of sex tours, assist state and local enforcement of laws prohibiting commercial sexual activities, and reduce trafficking in persons.

The Senate unanimously passed a Cornyn-sponsored resolution in 2004 urging all states to adopt legislation that will ensure the full coordination of local, state and federal efforts to fight the scourge of human slavery and sex trafficking.

CORNYN STATEMENT ON NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS DAY States News Service  
January 10, 2008 Thursday

Provisions in Sen. Cornyn's End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act of 2005 were passed, in part, in the reauthorization of the anti-sex trafficking legislation in 2006 the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act.

Sen. Cornyn helped pass the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003 in the 108th Congress. This legislation would authorize appropriations to combat human trafficking, refined the criteria for judging whether countries meet standards for combating human trafficking, and created a new country **watch list**. Since passage of this legislation, countries that, according to the **Trafficking in Persons Report**, do not cooperate in the fight against trafficking are subject to **U.S.** sanctions.

In 2005, Sen. Cornyn chaired a hearing titled Examining U.S. Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking and Slavery, in his capacity as then-chairman of the Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights subcommittee.

Sen. Cornyn serves on the Armed Services, Judiciary and Budget Committees. In addition, he is Vice Chairman of the Senate Republican Conference and the Senate Select Committee on Ethics. He serves as the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee's Immigration, Border Security and Refugees subcommittee and the Armed Services Committee's Air-land subcommittee. He served previously as Texas Attorney General, Texas Supreme Court Justice, and Bexar County District Judge.

**LOAD-DATE:** January 10, 2008

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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US Fed News

**January** 10, 2008 Thursday 12:16 AM EST**SEN. CORNYN ISSUES STATEMENT ON NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS DAY****BYLINE:** US Fed News**LENGTH:** 736 words**DATELINE:** COLLEGE STATION

The office of Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, issued the following news release:

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, made the following statement Thursday in advance of the first observance of the National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness on January 11. Sens. Cornyn and Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., introduced and passed a bipartisan resolution in the Senate last June in support of establishing the awareness day, which is intended to be observed annually.

"We must continue working to eradicate human trafficking by raising awareness and strengthening efforts to combat it at home and abroad. This remains one of the most pressing human rights concerns of our time.

"Americans would be shocked to learn that slavery still exists today--not just in remote parts of the world, but hidden away in communities across our nation. So we need to improve protection of victims, punish the criminals and prevent more innocent people from suffering this fate.

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\* The Senate unanimously passed a Cornyn-sponsored resolution in 2004 urging all states to adopt legislation that will ensure the full coordination of local, state and federal efforts to fight the scourge of human slavery and sex trafficking.

SEN. CORNYN ISSUES STATEMENT ON NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS DAY US Fed  
News January 10, 2008 Thursday 12:16 AM EST

\* Provisions in Sen. Cornyn's End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act of 2005 were passed, in part, in the reauthorization of the anti-sex trafficking legislation in 2006--the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act.

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Cambodian women rescued from sexual slavery in Malaysia return home Associated Press International July 5, 2007  
Thursday 12:49 PM GMT

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Associated Press International

**July 5, 2007** Thursday 12:49 PM GMT

## **Cambodian women rescued from sexual slavery in Malaysia return home**

**BYLINE:** By SOPHENG CHEANG, Associated Press Writer

**SECTION:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**LENGTH:** 397 words

**DATELINE:** PHNOM PENH Cambodia

Three Cambodian women who escaped from sexual slavery in Malaysia last year were returned home this week, an aid group and officials said Thursday.

The three, ages 18 to 23, came back Tuesday after working as prostitutes for several years in Malaysia, said Somaly Mam, director of the nonprofit group Afesip. Its name is the French acronym for Acting for Women in Distressing Situations.

The case underlines the widespread problem of human trafficking in Southeast Asia, where economic desperation in poorer countries drives such exploitation. There are few mechanisms to protect them.

Cambodia was recently placed on a U.S. human trafficking **watch list** for the second consecutive year, "because it failed to show evidence of increasing efforts to combat trafficking in persons, particularly in addressing reports of public officials' complicity in trafficking," according to the U.S. State Department's annual report on worldwide human trafficking.

The report describes Cambodia as "a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children trafficked for the purposes of commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor."

It also calls Malaysia "a destination country, and to a lesser extent, a source and transit country for women and children trafficked for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation."

At least 51 Cambodian girls and women were rescued from brothels in Malaysia in 2005 to 2007, said You Ay, the country's Deputy Minister of Women's Affairs.

She gave no estimate of the total number of Cambodian sex workers in Malaysia, but said Cambodia's and Malaysia's governments are working together to try to rescue more.

Somaly Mam said one of the three returned women was tricked by her sister while she was in Cambodia into getting a job in Malaysia in 2006, but was later sold as a sex worker. Background information on the others was not immediately available.

All three are now at Afesip's center in Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh, where they are receiving counseling, she said, adding that she believed three people in Malaysia had been arrested in the case.

Somaly Mam said Malaysian police rescued the three women from a brothel in November. She said one of them, who managed to escape from the brothel, phoned Afesip's Phnom Penh office to ask for help.

On the Net:

**U.S. State Department report on human trafficking:**

<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2007/>

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CORNYN, FEINSTEIN RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH NATIONAL DAY OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING  
AWARENESS PASSES SENATE States News Service June 22, 2007 Friday

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States News Service

**June** 22, 2007 Friday

## **CORNYN, FEINSTEIN RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH NATIONAL DAY OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS PASSES SENATE**

**BYLINE:** States News Service

**LENGTH:** 749 words

**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The following information was released by Texas Senator John Cornyn:

The U.S. Senate unanimously passed a bipartisan resolution on Friday introduced by U.S. Sens. John Cornyn (R-Texas) and Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) to create an annual National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness on January 11.

The resolution is intended to focus attention on, and generate opposition to, a crime in which victims, primarily women and children, are trafficked into the United States by the thousands and coerced into lives of forced labor and sexual slavery.

"I believe most Americans would be shocked to learn that slavery continues to exist today not just in remote parts of the world, but hidden away in communities across America," said Sen. Cornyn, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee. "We must keep working to eradicate human trafficking by raising awareness and strengthening efforts to combat it both abroad and here at home."

The resolution states that: "Congress supports the goals and ideals of observing the National Day of Human Trafficking Awareness on January 11 of each year and all other efforts to raise awareness of and opposition to human trafficking."

"Eliminating the scourge of human trafficking and slavery from our midst remains one of the most fundamental human rights issues of our time," Sen. Cornyn said. "So we must continue efforts to protect the victims of human trafficking and slavery, to punish the evildoers, and to prevent other innocent human beings from ever having to suffer the same fate."

The International Labor Organization estimates there are more than 12 million people in forced labor, bonded labor, forced child labor and sexual servitude at any given time.

--Background on Sen. Cornyn's efforts to combat human trafficking--

Sen. Cornyn introduced the Stop Trafficking of Persons (STOP) Act, in the 108th Congress, to strengthen **U.S.** efforts to combat human trafficking. This legislation would: specify that governments engaging in human trafficking are not immune from prosecution within the **U.S.** court system; require the **U.S. State Department** to include in its annual **Trafficking in Persons Report** accounts of steps foreign governments are taking to combat the sex tourism industry; and ensure that nongovernmental organizations investigating human trafficking in foreign countries are not required by **U.S.** law to notify foreign governments or targets of investigative activities.

Sen. Cornyn helped pass the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2003 in the 108th Congress. This legislation would authorize appropriations to combat human trafficking, refined the criteria for judging whether countries meet standards for combating human trafficking, and created a new country "**watch list**." Since passage of this legislation, countries that, according to the **Trafficking in Persons Report**, do not cooperate in the fight against trafficking are subject to **U.S.** sanctions.

Sen. Cornyn introduced the End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act of 2005, which built on the STOP Act by continuing to combat commercial sex trade activities by targeting the demand for this atrocity. This legislation would protect children

CORNYN, FEINSTEIN RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH NATIONAL DAY OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING  
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from being exploited by these activities, prohibit the operation of sex tours, assist state and local enforcement of laws prohibiting commercial sexual activities, and reduce trafficking in persons.

Provisions in Sen. Cornyn's End Demand for Sex Trafficking Act of 2005 were passed, in part, in the reauthorization of the anti-sex trafficking legislation last year the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act.

The Senate unanimously passed a Cornyn-sponsored resolution in 2004 urging all states to adopt legislation that will ensure the full coordination of local, state and federal efforts to fight the scourge of human slavery and sex trafficking.

In 2005, Sen. Cornyn chaired a hearing titled, "Examining U.S. Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking and Slavery," in his capacity as then-chairman of the Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights subcommittee.

Sen. Cornyn serves on the Armed Services, Judiciary and Budget Committees. In addition, he is Vice Chairman of the Senate Republican Conference and the Senate Select Committee on Ethics. He serves as the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee's Immigration, Border Security and Refugees subcommittee and the Armed Services Committee's Airland subcommittee. He served previously as Texas Attorney General, Texas Supreme Court Justice, and Bexar County District Judge

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US Fed News

**June** 22, 2007 Friday 1:05 AM EST**SENATE PASSES SENS. CORNYN, FEINSTEIN RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH NATIONAL DAY OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS****BYLINE:** US Fed News**LENGTH:** 680 words**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The office of Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, issued the following press release:

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President Bush Lobbying GOP Senators for Immigration Reforms; Rescuers Working to Bring Injured Hiker Down From Colorado Mountain; State Department Releases Annual Report on Human Trafficking CNN June 12, 2007  
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CNN

June 12, 2007 Tuesday

SHOW: CNN NEWSROOM 10:59 AM EST

## **President Bush Lobbying GOP Senators for Immigration Reforms; Rescuers Working to Bring Injured Hiker Down From Colorado Mountain; State Department Releases Annual Report on Human Trafficking**

**BYLINE:** Tony Harris, Heidi Collins, Dana Bash, Jamie Kim, Zain Verjee, Elizabeth Cohen, Karl Penhaul, Miles O'Brien

**GUESTS:** Don Shepperd

**SECTION:** NEWS; International

**LENGTH:** 6718 words

**HIGHLIGHT:** President Bush meets with GOP senators today regarding immigration reform. Rescuers are working to bring an injured hiker down in Clear Creek Canyon, Colorado. The **State Department** releasing its annual **report on human trafficking**. Paratroopers from the Army's 82nd Airborne Division are all off to war. What will it mean for the Army?

TONY HARRIS, CNN ANCHOR: And good morning, everyone. You're with CNN. You're informed.

I'm Tony Harris.

HEIDI COLLINS, CNN ANCHOR: And I'm Heidi Collins.

Developments keep coming into the NEWSROOM on this Tuesday, June 12th.

Here is what's on the rundown.

Rescue mission right now. Crews trying to bring an injured hiker out of a Colorado canyon.

HARRIS: A coming out event for the space station. Solar panels deployed. Our Miles O'Brien checks it out.

COLLINS: And the 82nd Airborne all deployed. What does that mean for the U.S. military around the world?

In the NEWSROOM.

Want to take you straight to Clear Creek Canyon, Colorado, as we begin to show you more of the rescue mission that is under way, coming our way from our affiliate there, KUSA 9 News in Denver, Colorado.

You are looking at a gentleman who hurt himself on a hike with two other buddies. Apparently, he tripped and sprained his ankle and then could not continue.

This happened yesterday. So, unfortunately, his two buddies had to go on without him because it was getting dark and they needed to get help.

So they left him with, we understand, a couple of sandwiches, a lighter, and a disposable camera. Left him, and then got help. And now this morning, the rescue mission began there about 6:00 a.m. At first light, I would imagine.

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And we are watching several different crews here from the Golden Fire Department, West Metro Fire Rescue and Alpine Rescue. Have quite a bit of experience, as you would imagine, living in such a mountainous region. So they will continue to try and get him down. But boy, oh, boy, it is quite a drop there, quite -- quite a vertical. So they are trying to do that as safely as possible.

And I understand -- say it one more time, sir -- that we are awaiting a live report or some type of press conference that's going to be coming our way relatively quickly. And we, of course, will monitor that and bring you any new information, should we get it.

HARRIS: The D.A. moves to the other side of the courtroom in North Carolina. He's the defendant, not the prosecutor.

A trial under way at this hour for Mike Nifong, the Durham County district attorney. He is the man who prosecuted members of the Duke University lacrosse team on rape charges. Those charges later dropped. The North Carolina Bar has charged Nifong with ethics violations.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

KATHERINE JEAN, PROSECUTOR: When Mr. Nifong saw that this case existed, he immediately recognized that this case would likely garner significant media attention and decided to handle it himself, instead of having the case handled by the assistant in his office, who would ordinarily handle such cases.

Mr. Nifong called the Durham Police Department, notified the Durham Police Department he would be handling the case himself, and instructed the Durham Police Department to go through him for any directions on the factual investigation of the case.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

HARRIS: If convicted, Nifong could be disbarred.

COLLINS: President Bush breaking bread and twisting arms. A short time from now, he heads to Capitol Hill for lunch with Republican senators. On the menu, lobbying support for his immigration reform.

CNN Congressional Correspondent Dana Bash is on Capitol Hill.

And Dana, it's going to be pretty hard for the president to revive the immigration bill, isn't it, at least from everything we've been hearing?

DANA BASH, CNN CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENT: It certainly will be. You know, I was talking to a Republican senator this morning who is generally in favor of this immigration compromise. He said he thinks whether or not immigration can be resurrected will really be decided by this visit from the president.

Now, it is certainly going to be very, very hard, because the hard, cold fact, Heidi, as you know, is that the president just doesn't have the same kind of influence that he once had here on Capitol Hill with his fellow Republicans, especially on this issue of immigration, where the conservatives in his base really just think he's flat wrong on what he wants to do, which is with this bill, give legal status, even citizenship to millions of illegal immigrants.

Listen to what a Republican senator, a chief opponent of this bill said earlier this morning on "AMERICAN MORNING".

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

SEN. JEFF SESSIONS (R), ALABAMA: I think the president is wrong to push this piece of legislation so hard after we've demonstrated the flaws that are in it. He needs to back off. He needs to help us write a better bill and not push a bill that so many of us can't support.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BASH: There you hear, again, it certainly is an ardent opponent of this legislation. But to hear a senator like Jeff Sessions from probably the reddest state in the country, Alabama, saying that the president, his president, should back off really is telling, Heidi, as to what the political dynamic President Bush is facing here in general, but especially on this issue of immigration.

COLLINS: OK. So what's it going to take to get it done, Dana? I mean, what are Republicans actually saying about what they want to hear, what they don't want to hear from the president today?

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BASH: Well, you know, Republicans are really trying to lower expectations as to what the president can accomplish. Even the top Republican, Mitch McConnell, made clear to reporters, he doesn't think that the president is going to really have much sway, because there really aren't very many undecided senators here when it comes to this particular issue of immigration.

And part of the problem is that there is sort of a procedural fight that he's wading into over how many chances opponents have to actually amend the bill. And that's what, in the end, sunk this last week.

So that is, in many ways, up to Republicans. Many of the Republican opponents of this have a slew of amendments.

What the Senate majority leader has said is he won't bring this up unless the president can promise that he has Republican votes. And that will mean trying to convince these opponents, who really for the most part want to kill this bill, will agree to limit the number of chances that they have to change it. That is going to be very, very tough for the president to actually accomplish when he comes here.

COLLINS: Yes. And as we look at some video there of Harry Reid, Dana, he's kind of trying to put the onus on the president here.

How important is it for Dems to get this done?

BASH: That's a really good question. You know, it is important for Democrats. Democrats, we of course can't forget, actually run Congress now. And they, too, need some accomplishments.

They really haven't had many, particularly on the domestic side, since they've been in the majority for about six months now. But the tactical decision by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Democrats has been to try to put the onus on President Bush, because they know full well that this is something that has been near and dear to President Bush since day one of his presidency.

Since he came in, he said immigration reform has really been something that he wants to accomplish by the time he gets done. And so that's why Democrats are trying to put the onus on President Bush.

But the reality is, you're right, Democrats do need some kind of positive thing, and some kind of accomplishment. So that is a potential source that could backfire against Democrats if this actually does at the end of the day die, immigration dies in Congress.

COLLINS: Well, everybody better snap it up. We've been talking about this for a long time.

All right.

BASH: I have a feeling we will be for a lot longer, Heidi.

COLLINS: Yes, I think you're probably right.

Dana Bash, thank you.

HARRIS: A roadside bombing targets a busy market in central Baghdad. The Interior Ministry says two civilians are dead and two others are wounded.

Meanwhile, in Samarra, north of Baghdad, police say the mayor's convoy was hit by a roadside bomb. The mayor wasn't injured, but seven bodyguards were wounded.

The latest violence plays out as the deputy secretary of state makes a visit to Baghdad. John Negroponte met with the Iraqi's prime minister today. The meeting is part of a Bush administration push for political reforms in Iraq.

COLLINS: Quickly want to take you back to Clear Creek Canyon in Colorado, where we have been watching some pretty amazing video of a rescue that's going on, a hiker who hurt himself.

And we want to take you directly to Jamie Kim of KUSA 9 News there in Denver.

Hi Jamie. Tell us what you know from where you are.

JAMIE KIM, REPORTER, KUSA: Heidi, rescuers are still working to bring that injured hiker down.

His name is Dave Seal (ph). Dave and his brother and his friend were all hiking yesterday afternoon when Dave jumped off a small ledge and twisted his ankle.

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Now, he tried to get down the mountain by himself, but his ankle continued to get worse. So his brother and his friend came down the mountain. It took them several hours, and they when the to call for help.

Now, all three of them are from Topeka, Kansas. They were here in Colorado visiting, thought they would go for a short hike, and that short hike has turned into an adventure that they did not anticipate.

Now, we can take a look now at some copter video that we shot earlier this morning. And it shows the fact that the rescuers are having a difficult time getting Dave Seal (ph) down the mountain.

They have to lower this basket down a zip line system, 600 feet down to the bottom. And those firefighters have to guide that basket carefully down themselves. And what's made the rescue even more complicated is the fact that it was raining earlier this morning. So those rocks, that rough terrain is quite slippery, quite treacherous for those firefighters. It could take them quite some time to get Dave Seal (ph) down to the bottom.

But we're told he is cold, he is tired, he' sore. But otherwise OK, aside from the sprained ankle -- Heidi.

COLLINS: Yes, Jamie. And I understand it's probably difficult to see from where are you what their progress has been. But what I'm reading here is apparently they began this rescue at about 6:00 a.m. this morning, and it could take anywhere from four to six hours.

Do you have an idea, has anyone been able to update you on how much progress they have made and how much longer they have to go?

KIM: Heidi, they have not let us know how long this will take. We do know that he is attached to that zip line, he is in that basket.

They are in the process of lowering him down. But again, that 600 feet is extremely rough and steep terrain. So it could take quite some time to get him down to the bottom.

They are taking their time, they tell me, because is he not seriously injured, because he just has a sprained ankle. They have the luxury of time to get him down to the bottom.

COLLINS: Sure. All right. Very good. Well, that definitely works for their side of the rescue.

Jamie Kim, we appreciate the update, coming to us from KUSA 9 News in Denver.

HARRIS: Let's get you a check of weather now. Jacqui Jeras is in the severe weather center.

(WEATHER REPORT)

HARRIS: And very quickly, this just in to CNN. We've been telling you all morning that President Bush will be on the Hill today having lunch, pushing for immigration reform, and trying to rally the Republican troops. He will be meeting with Senate Republicans, and we understand that after that lunch meeting, the president will make a statement.

Learned that just moments ago. Wanted to share that with you. When the president does make that statement, we will of course bring it to you right here in the CNN NEWSROOM.

It is called modern day slavery. The victims are often women and children. The **State Department** releasing its annual **report on human trafficking**.

Our State Department correspondent, Zain Vergee, is with us now.

Zain, great to see you.

What are you finding? We will see you in just a second here, Zain. What are you finding in that report?

There you are.

ZAIN VERJEE, CNN STATE DEPT. CORRESPONDENT: Well, trafficking in persons is modern-day slavery. That's really the message coming this day from the State Department.

They issued their report today. It covers 164 countries. Now, essentially, the goal of this report is to raise awareness and also get governments to take some real substantive action to combat human trafficking.

I want us to take a look at some numbers here that came out of this report.

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The State Department is estimating that as many as 800,000 men, women and children are trafficked across borders against their will. Eighty percent of them are female, most of them are forced into prostitution, sweat shops and domestic labor. Millions are trafficked inside their own countries.

And this, Tony, was an interesting thing, because many people in the U.S. wouldn't even think this. But as many as 17,500 people are trafficked into the United States each year.

Now, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice says the U.S. is committed to combat trafficking, and she says that she hopes that the awareness will lead to prevention.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

CONDOLEEZZA RICE, SECRETARY OF STATE: We hope this report encourages responsible nations across the globe to stand together, to speak with one voice, and to say that freedom and security are non-negotiable demands of human dignity. And to say, as President Bush has, no one is fit to be a master and no one deserves to be a slave.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

VERJEE: The Bush administration has been paying a lot more attention to the problems of human trafficking over the past few years. Really, it's considered part of the fight to bring human rights in different parts of the world by this administration, especially in the Middle East. And this is a crucial part of the Bush foreign policy agenda -- Tony.

HARRIS: Hey, Zain, does the report outline which countries are the worst offenders of this human trafficking, this human smuggling?

VERJEE: Yes, it does. There is a black list, and there are a number of countries on this list. It's long.

It's described as those who don't fully comply with the minimum standards as designated by U.S. law. And they are not really making significant efforts to do so.

Here you see a long list of them. Some of them are U.S. allies.

Among them, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Also, you see countries like Cuba, Iran, Malaysia, North Korea, Sudan, Syria.

Now, these countries on this list have 90 days to take action, otherwise they face sanctions by the U.S.

And Tony, this one is a sore one. You know, India, it is actually missing from this list. It's been put on a **watch list** for a fourth year in a row.

The report says that it's failed to tackle the problem. There have been inadequate efforts to punish traffickers.

And U.S. officials have told CNN that there was a really spirited debate in the State Department about India, who's a close ally of the U.S. The deputy secretary of state, John Negroponte, wanted to put India on this black list, but he was overruled by Secretary Rice, who really didn't want to alienate India in all of this, but says, look, if India doesn't pull its socks up in the next six months, then it will be on that black list -- Tony.

HARRIS: That's always a telling report.

Zain Verjee for us.

Zain, great to see you. Thanks.

COLLINS: Paratroopers from the Army's 82nd Airborne Division all off to war. What will it mean for the Army?

A military viewpoint coming up in the NEWSROOM.

HARRIS: Fighting a guerrilla war. U.S. forces battle fatigue and insurgents in Baquba. This is a very intriguing look.

Details coming ahead in the NEWSROOM. COLLINS: As if they didn't have enough to deal with, Hurricane Katrina victims and serious sleep issues long after the storm. What's the link?

We'll tell you all about it in the NEWSROOM.

HARRIS: Catch of the day, or of a lifetime? True blue lobster. Your eyes are not deceiving you. You've got to eat.

In the NEWSROOM.

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HARRIS: Want to give you an update on a story we've been following here in the CNN NEWSROOM since March now.

Former Pakistan cricket coach Bob Woolmer, it is being reported now, died of natural causes and not as a murder, as was initially suspected. That information just a short time ago.

Police initially said Woolmer was strangled when he was found unconscious in his Kingston, Jamaica, hotel room March 18th, after his team lost in the Cricket World Cup.

Comments moments ago from the police commissioner, Lucious Thomas, in Kingston.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

LUCIOUS THOMAS, POLICE COMMISSIONER: The reports provided by Professor Martin and Dr. Holinan (ph) both concur with Dr. Kerry's (ph) view that Mr. Woolmer died of natural causes.

In addition to the provision of the three independent views of the pathologists, we also said that we would await the outcome of toxicology tests. The toxicology tests have now been completed, and no substance was found to indicate that Bob Woolmer was poisoned or in any other way (INAUDIBLE).

The Jamaica (INAUDIBLE) force accepts these findings and has now closed this investigation into the death of Mr. Bob Woolmer.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

HARRIS: So, all the results are in, and the new conclusion is that Bob Woolmer died of natural causes. And as you just heard, the case has now been closed.

We'll continue to follow developments as we get them here in the CNN NEWSROOM.

COLLINS: The 82nd Airborne, for only the second time since World War II, all of the division's combat infantry brigades are at war.

Here to talk about the significance of it is CNN military analyst, retired Major General Don Shepperd. General Shepperd, thanks for being with us.

Quickly, before we go on here, let's tell people just in case they're not familiar what the 82nd Airborne is and what their overall mission is.

MAJ. GEN. Don SHEPPERD (RET.), CNN MILITARY ANALYST: Yes, Heidi, think of the 82nd Airborne m as our paratroopers, if you will. We used to have several Airborne divisions, and now we have just the 82nd Airborne of conventional paratroopers.

We have the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Vicenza, Italy, and you do have some Rangers and you do have Special Forces that are jump qualified. You have the 101st Airborne, but that is an air mobile, not air assault division -- helicopter borne. So all of our conventional paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne are now in combat in either Afghanistan or Iraq.

COLLINS: OK. And we know that the last time that happened it was Operation Desert Storm back in 1990.

How significant is it then that the entire 82nd Airborne has been deployed?

SHEPPERD: Well, it's not alarming, but it is a sign that our military is stressed. Now, we all know that.

The 82nd is made up of six brigades. It's about 18,000 people in the division of brigades of about 3,000 to 3,500.

You have four Airborne infantry brigades, an aviation brigade, and a support brigade. And all of those are deployed now in either Afghanistan or Iraq.

Normally you leave at least one brigade home so you can continue training and receive new recruits. Now all of these people are gone. So it's -- again, some of these people are on their third, even fourth rotations. It's an indication of how stressed we are in a war that has gone on longer than World War II and looks like it's going to go on even longer.

COLLINS: Sure. What does it mean then in terms of the U.S. military's ability to send in paratroopers if a situation, of course, in another part of the world really demands that?

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SHEPPERD: Well, if you need an entire Airborne division of paratroopers, you wouldn't have them. But on the other hand, very seldom do you use that.

The last time these people were used in a real jump, although, was in Iraq, where they basically jumped into Bashur (ph) in northern Iraq and opened the northern front, if you will. This was the Vicenza, the 173rd out of Vicenza that did that. So you don't have a division of paratroopers if you need it in another conflict, although you have many other soldiers that you could deploy if we ended up in another conflict. COLLINS: OK. Well, the division, we know, recently had to drop one of their distinct missions, and that was the division ready brigade. I'm sure you're very familiar with that, which kept actually a brigade, of course, at the ready to be bound for service anywhere in the world within about 18 hours of notice.

How big of a deal is it to lose that type of service?

SHEPPERD: Well, you put somebody else on alert. So, you do have some flexibility to do it. But it is -- it's a big deal. And again, it's an indicator of, we are a smaller military, and now we're engaged in a big and a very long war.

The combat ready brigade was indeed, as you said, a brigade of about 3,500 people, ready to deploy on 18 hours' notice anywhere in the world. And now from the 82nd Airborne, at least, it's not there.

Others have been alerted. And so you could deploy other forces if needed. And you also have, of course, air power, that you can react immediately with air power in another conflict.

So we're not in any kind of emergency situation. But if another situation took place, for instance, in North Korea, Iran, et cetera, we would be really stressed.

COLLINS: Yes, definitely. It sounds like everything you're saying, the real big headline here is just sort of more about the overall state of deployment and the overall state of how the military is stretched right now. We've also seen a little bit of reporting that we did here today on some recruitment goals that are not being reached.

All together, when you look at this information, your feeling is what?

SHEPPERD: Yes, well, it's no secret that when you have a conflict, it's harder to recruit during a conflict than it is when you're in peace time. People join the military for all sorts of things.

They join for education, for jobs, et cetera. But when you're in the middle of a conflict, it's harder to recruit.

Now, you have to balance recruiting, retention and budgets. Again, we're not in any kind of emergency situation, but it is harder to recruit. I think we're going to be missing recruiting goals, at least for the active duty, probably for the foreseeable future.

The National Guard, interestingly enough, right now on the Army side is doing very well in meeting their recruiting goals. So it's a balancing act. We have to watch it. Again, we're not in any kind of emergency situation.

COLLINS: All right.

General Don Shepperd, we appreciate your thoughts here today, as always. Thank you.

SHEPPERD: You bet.

HARRIS: And still to come this morning, kids could be more than cranky after nights with no sleep. New research points to a possible ADHD link.

That story coming up for you in the NEWSROOM.

HARRIS: Trouble sleeping? More than 70 million Americans have some kind of sleep disorder. Experts are taking up the issue this week. One of the headlines involves people who lived through Hurricane Katrina.

We are joined now by CNN Medical Correspondent Elizabeth Cohen.

Elizabeth, it's not going to surprise anyone that people living through something as traumatic as Hurricane Katrina might experience some sleep problems. But here's the thing. This report is interesting, because it points out some disparities between men and women.

What gives there?

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ELIZABETH COHEN, CNN MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT: It was extremely surprising finding there, Tony, because usually when people have sleep problems, it's the women who go for help. However, in this case, in Katrina, it was the men who went for help.

Now, doctors aren't quite sure why. They have one theory, which is that men, perhaps, were more involved in the clean-up of Hurricane Katrina, so, therefore, were more traumatized as part of that activity. But really, they're not quite sure. But there was a difference.

HARRIS: Well, how do you know when you're just sort of responding normally to a traumatic situation and you cross the line and now you need some professional help?

ELIZABETH COHEN, CNN CORRESPONDENT: There is a line there. Being traumatized for a couple of days, for a couple of weeks, even a month or two is normal, whether you're recovering from a natural disaster, from a divorce, from losing your job. But if it goes on for many months, you might be suffering from depression or post traumatic stress disorder. In that case, you really need to go get some professional help.

HARRIS: It's not just adults who are having sleep problems. We know, I know, you know that kids have sleep problems as well. Anything helpful in the report?

COHEN: Yes, there was an interesting report there about sleep and ADHD because those two, some studies have linked them. What they did, it was really fascinating actually, what the researchers did, is they looked at -- they took kids and they told the parents don't let them sleep enough. We want sleep deprived kids. For seven nights, these kids didn't get enough sleep. And I'm sure you're shocked to learn these kids had trouble focusing the next day. That's shocking. So they found out what parents know already. But the interesting part was that what they did is that they actually looked at these kids' brain waves. What they found was that they had abnormal brainwaves in the area that has to do with attention. So lack of sleep leads to abnormal brainwaves

HARRIS: Hello.

COHEN: Hello! And so that makes some doctors think maybe some of these kids don't actually have ADD. Maybe they are just sleep deprived. Maybe they don't need drugs. Maybe they just need a good night's sleep.

HARRIS: Well, let's work from that premise. How do we go about as parents making sure our kids get the sleep they need? Let's test the theory.

COHEN: First of all, you need to be watching your kid and see, does my kid need more sleep? Sometimes kids need more sleep than other kids first of all. Second of all, what you want to do is routine, routine, routine. You want to do the same thing every single night. We put our pajamas on, we brush our teeth, we read a book, we sing a song, we go to bed. Kids love routine and they will respond to that. But the second thing sounds like a real no duh, but you'd be surprised how many parents do this. Don't give your kids caffeinated beverages at dinnertime or thereafter. You'll be surprised how many parents will give their kids a soda at dinner and there's caffeine in that.

HARRIS: I've been guilty a time or two. Heidi as well?

HEIDI COLLINS, CNN ANCHOR, NEWSROOM: Rum.

COHEN: That'll help them sleep.

HARRIS: Elizabeth, good to see you. Thank you, good information.

To get your daily dose of health news online, log on to our website, you'll find the latest medical news, a health library and information on diet and fitness. The address is [cnn.com/health](http://cnn.com/health).

HARRIS: Welcome back everyone to the CNN NEWSROOM. Good morning, I'm Tony Harris.

COLLINS: And I'm Heidi Collins. Hi, everybody.

President Bush back in Washington and back on the stump. Today (INAUDIBLE), he merely travels down the street to Capitol Hill, but he faces a world of resistance from his own party. He's having lunch with Republican senators so he can lobby support for his immigration reforms. The measure is considered one of the president's top priorities but it stalled last week amid stiff opposition from fellow Republicans. (BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

TONY SNOW, WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY (sic): What they didn't like last week was that Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid wanted to cut off debate so that a number of Republicans who had amendments they wanted to pro-

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pose didn't get to have their hearing before the United States Senate. It's possible to kind of over interpret what happened in that cloture vote. What now is going to happen we think is that Senate Republicans are going to get together on a series of amendments. They're going to present them to Harry Reid who has given us the belief, if he'll go ahead and permit that debate after they finish debating an energy bill that comes up today and if that's the case, we're confident it's going to pass.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

COLLINS: Some key Republicans sharply oppose the measure because they say it provides amnesty to immigrants who entered the U.S. illegally.

HARRIS: Spreading its wings and preparing to spread out. A big step for the space station. That story, straight ahead for you in the NEWSROOM.

KARL PENHAUL, CNN CORRESPONDENT: I'm Karl Penhaul, live in Baquba where we're out on patrol with U.S. soldiers hunting al Qaeda militants, coming up in the NEWSROOM.

COLLINS: Developing story that we've been following here this morning. CNN now confirming Bob Woolmer (ph), you may remember him as the Pakistan cricket coach who originally was said by Jamaican police to have been murdered back in March today it was announced that he did indeed die of natural causes. Once again, you may remember, that initial report came out from Jamaican police back in March after he was found unconscious in his hotel room and after his highly rated team actually lost to a team not very many people knew about in this sport, from Ireland. This was in the cricket world cup. So once again, new information coming in about the Pakistan cricket coach who initially people had thought he had been murdered. Today we learn that he did indeed die of natural causes.

HARRIS: Counterinsurgency, that is the word on the ground in Baquba and that al Qaeda stronghold coalition forces fight a daily battle, door to door. Here's our Karl Penhaul.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

PENHAUL voice-over): They've done this a thousand times before. But it doesn't seem to get any easier.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You don't see no Ali Baba running around the streets.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: No. PENHAUL: The same question as always, but few clear answers.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Just doing a routine check here homey.

PENHAUL: It's around dawn and these U.S. soldiers have been scouring old Baquba's twisted alleys for hours, their target, al Qaeda militants. Iraqi soldiers are out with the Americans. Today at least some of the soldiers feel the Iraqis aren't pulling their weight. Midmorning, fatigue sets in. And so far, the platoon has come up with nothing, neither guns nor gunmen.

UNIDENTIFIED SOLDIER: It's hit or miss. Some days we find a lot, some days we don't.

PENHAUL: Then the rattle of gunfire. Insurgents pop up close to a mosque and open fire on another platoon.

UNIDENTIFIED SOLDIER: We get four or five guys on different rooftops, pop a few shots at us. If we can't get them pinpointed, they keep it up. We get them pinpointed, they start hopping rooftops.

PENHAUL: Striker fighting vehicles maneuver down in the street below. A radio crackles the bad news.

UNIDENTIFIED SOLDIER: (INAUDIBLE) the new reporter. One guy in the shoulder (INAUDIBLE) .

PENHAUL: One U.S. soldier is killed, two others wounded. And down below, a wounded Iraqi calls out for medical help. That's the nature of Iraq's guerrilla war. The American advance bulked down by a handful of insurgent gunmen.

UNIDENTIFIED SOLDIER: It's kind of like a crap shoot. Some days you get lucky, some days you don't.

PENHAUL: An Apache helicopter swoops in and unleashes a hellfire missile. There's no indication it killed the militants. Strikers try to conceal their movements with a curtain of smoke and soldiers scurry across exposed terrain. The longer the U.S. soldiers spend on the ground here, the insurgents remain the martyrs of these streets and alleys, choosing when to fight and when to melt away. Soldiers hole up in an abandon building and wait for dark. But like a thousand times before, the insurgents had slipped away. Tonight was not their night to stand and fight.

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(END VIDEOTAPE)

HARRIS: And Karl Penhaul joins us now live from one of Baquba's neighborhoods. Karl, what was that I just heard?

PENHAUL: That was an explosion, Tony, across towards the western section of Baquba. Throughout the day, there have been somewhat sporadic firefights this morning. In fact there was an intense fire fight between U.S. troops who were out on a mission and they came under fire from a cell of about five or six insurgents. They managed to force those insurgents into a building and then Apache helicopters were called in and unleashed hellfire missiles and started to blast away at that house. Since then, throughout the course of the day, we've been hearing explosions like that. That could well, we're told by U.S. soldiers here on this combat outpost have been one of those roadside bombs exploding. We have heard those explode in the course of the day. There have also been numerous rounds fired by suspected al Qaeda insurgent snipers from locations around this combat outpost also Tony.

HARRIS: So Karl, with that backdrop and that information, how would you describe the security situation that you're seeing firsthand during this embed?

PENHAUL: Well, what U.S. military commanders have told us is that Baquba, the city of Baqubah is now one of the most dangerous places in Iraq. That is principally because it has been a stronghold for al Qaeda militants who want to use Baqubah and the surrounding area as one of their capital cities in their plan to set up an Islamic state here in Iraq. According to some sources, there may be upwards of two or 3,000 al Qaeda militants here in parts of Baquba. What we have seen of recent weeks is that some of the nationalist insurgents have flipped. They've changed sides. They've broken ranks with al Qaeda militants and they're are now fighting along side the U.S. forces. But that still hasn't been enough to clear out Baqubah of the al Qaeda insurgents here. And so what U.S. military commanders have told us is that there will be necessary -- a need for greater offensive operations here in Baqubah and they have said that in the course of this month, they will be beefing up forces here and trying to take on al Qaeda and trying to root them out of the city of Baquba, which is about 40 miles north of Baghdad, Tony.

HARRIS: CNN's Karl Penhaul embedded with U.S. troops in Baquba. Karl, thank you.

MILES O'BRIEN, CNN CORRESPONDENT: In New York and I'm watching what's going on on the international space station. Ever hear the word stiction? Well, coming up, I'll define it for you and I'll tell you why it can cause an array of trouble for the astronauts. Stay with us for more NEWSROOM.

COLLINS: The international space station is spreading its wings today, its solar wings. It's a step toward the next phase of construction. Our space correspondent Miles O'Brien joining us now live from New York. Always looking at these cool pictures, I think it's great, Miles.

O'BRIEN: Yes Heidi and we will tell you about this word stiction in just a moment. But let's just see the cool pictures first. Of course, live from space right now, you can see, slowly but surely, this is the object of NASA's attention right now and that is the deployment of that solar array, the beginning of the process. This will take several hours as they do this very slowly.

If you look kind of closely here, you can see it kind of unfolds, actually there's a nice close-up for us. It's almost as if they were listening to me in this case. I appreciate them doing that. Thank you for switching the shot, NASA. As you can see here, it's kind of like a blind, blinds you might put on your window, right? What happens is, if you're not careful in deploying these blinds, they tend to stick together and that can cause kind of a crack the whip type effect down the whole roll here. This is a previous deployment on a previous mission. The idea here is when they did it the first time back in 2000, they just hit the switch and off it went and it caused all kinds of stiction problems, which is --

COLLINS: Sticking.

O'BRIEN: Static friction combined to make stiction. And it was a mess. Ultimately, it got deployed, but it was not a pretty sight. You don't want to damage these things because it's \$367 million of your hard-earned tax money there. So let's do it right. The idea is to deploy it about halfway, let it bake in the sun and get whatever stiction capability is in there out of it and then do the remainder of the deployment. There you see how it's stopped there and on it goes. These are big solar arrays, stem to stern of the whole thing is about 300 feet when you get both wings out there. And once they're deployed, they will greatly enhance the electrical generating capability of the space station. Hopefully they'll be able to start doing some real science up there as the station gets a little bit more in a complete state. Yesterday, Heidi, the astronauts had a pretty successful space walk. There you see, that's Jim Riley there. You can tell because he's got red stripes on his suit. That's a signal.

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COLLINS: I did not know that.

O'BRIEN: Who's who. You have to have a program to know the players, right? And they successfully attached all the electrical connections to this huge truss with all solar arrays on it, so laid the ground work for what we're seeing today. While they were working out there, the word came in that they have a few extra tasks on their to-do list. A space honey-do list. Mission control wants them to fix a torn blanket, which is up in this part of the shuttle. Let's take a look at the tear. You've seen it by now but it's worth pointing out in case you missed it. It's not that big a tear, but it does expose a four inch by six inches, six inches by four inch triangle.

COLLINS: Doesn't look good.

O'BRIEN: No. It doesn't look good. So what they want to do is go out there and tuck in the blanky. Now let me show you this. This is the blanket material. I always have some in my desk in case I need it.

COLLINS: It is thermal, keeps you warm.

O'BRIEN: Yes, it's quilted silica and woven glass and it has a memory. Look how when I turn it up, it stays up.

COLLINS: It's like Tempur-pedic.

O'BRIEN: What's your sleep number is what you might want to know? But the other thing is, when you push it down, it stays down. The theory is it should be a relatively easy fix. Back to live pictures now. So far I haven't seen any signs of that nettlesome stiction, Heidi. But we are watching for it very closely as this deployment continues. Sure is a pretty shot, isn't it?

COLLINS: It is. It's gorgeous. I love watching those. OK, Miles O'Brien, nice to see you, with your (INAUDIBLE) and your thermal blankets and all and stiction, static and friction. At first I just thought it was a painful term, but now I understand.

O'BRIEN: Now that you know.

COLLINS: Thank you, sir, nice to see you.

O'BRIEN: You're welcome.

HARRIS: All this year, CNN is introducing you to people making a difference in their communities. We call them CNN heroes. Today we take to you Kabul, Afghanistan where a world renowned make-up artist has returned home to help the women of his country build a future for themselves. Meet today's CNN hero.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

MATIN MAULAWIZADA: I wanted to bring a little something back. It's a tiny project but I wanted to really make sure to bring something. The Afghan women, they survived years of war (INAUDIBLE) still they do indeed prevail. So to me, the strength of Afghan women are just remarkable and I wanted to work with them. Widows in particular rely on the mercy of their families so they kind of become servants. I wanted to change that, one person at a time, if I could.

My entire point was to make sure that widows and women be able to proudly work and be proud of their work and work outside their house and provide well for their families. It's just amazing. It sells itself, really. They read and write equivalent of fourth grader now. Mentally, they're prepared to go to work. They know how to take measurements. They know how to do -- to write measurements, once they learn enough, they will basically be businesswomen. And look at the embroidery on this. I'm hoping that I would send them to courses that they could actually manage a business, grow a business. My whole dream is for them to basically have the confidence to see beautiful objects that they're making and know that people are enjoying and appreciating them. They're doing the work. All I'm offering is basically an opportunity for them to show what they have.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

HARRIS: If you'd like to learn more about Matin's organization, you'll find all the information you need at [cnn.com/heroes](http://cnn.com/heroes).

COLLINS: Talk about a blue plate special. No, you're not seeing things. It's blue. And it's a rare catch, too. Don't worry, nobody's going to eat this guy. Blue lobster, coming up in the NEWSROOM.

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## **2007 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT RELEASED, UKRAINE ON WATCH LIST**

**BYLINE:** States News Service

**LENGTH:** 470 words

**DATELINE:** KIEV, Ukraine

The following information was released by the U.S. Embassy in Kiev:

**U.S.** Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice released the 2007 **Trafficking in Persons Report** at the **State Department** in Washington Tuesday, June 12. As directed by the **U.S.** Congress, the **State Department** prepares reports for all countries in the world. The goal of these reports is to stimulate action and create partnerships around the world in the fight against modern-day slavery.

As in previous years, this report lists Ukraine as a country that has a significant number of trafficking victims and as a country that has not met the standards for the elimination of severe forms of trafficking.

The report determines that Ukraine is taking significant efforts to comply with the standards for the elimination of trafficking, especially in the area of prevention. For example, in 2006, the Border Guards closed nine channels of trafficking, prevented 43 women from being trafficked, and detained 29 traffickers.

However, the report cautions that Ukraine has failed to provide evidence that it is increasing efforts to meet anti-trafficking standards, especially in the areas of victim protection and punishment of convicted traffickers. For example, of the 86 traffickers that were convicted and sentenced in 2006, a majority, 47, received only probation.

As a result, Ukraine has been placed on a **watch list** of countries that are making insufficient progress in combating trafficking in persons. Once Ukraine's efforts to eliminate trafficking in persons have increased, Ukraine will be moved up from the **watch list**. If Ukraine does not increase its anti-trafficking efforts, according to U.S. law, USG assistance to Ukraine could be negatively affected.

The Embassy currently works with the government of Ukraine to combat trafficking in persons. We are committed to helping Ukraine increase its efforts to meet anti-trafficking standards.

U.S. Government programs to help Ukraine improve its anti-trafficking efforts include: USAID support to anti-trafficking NGOs that provide counseling, job-skills training, employment referral, and awareness campaigns to inform the public about trafficking. USAID assistance has helped approximately 2,000 victims of trafficking reintegrate into Ukraine. The Embassy is also helping the Ministry of Interior strengthen investigation and information technology capabilities of their anti-trafficking department. The U.S. Embassy also actively participates in the working group on visa and document fraud in human trafficking that has been recently established by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

The complete text of the 2007 Trafficking in Persons Report can be found in English at <http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2007>. The chapter on Ukraine can be found in Ukrainian at [http://kyiv.usembassy.gov/polit\\_ukr.html#tip](http://kyiv.usembassy.gov/polit_ukr.html#tip).

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BBC Monitoring Latin America - Political  
Supplied by BBC Worldwide Monitoring

**January** 27, 2007 Saturday

## **Jamaica senate passes bill to punish persons involved in human trafficking**

**LENGTH:** 290 words

Text of report by Caribbean Media Corporation news agency website

KINGSTON, Jamaica, CMC - Jamaica's Senate on Friday passed a bill aimed at punishing persons involved in human trafficking.

The Trafficking in Persons Act has a novel provision which allows for convicted persons to be ordered by the court to provide restitution to the victims of their crime.

Leader of Government Business in the Senate and Justice Minister A.J. Nicholson boasted that this was the first time in Jamaica that restitution was being introduced under the criminal law.

He said he wanted this to become a trend, noting that those who violate the law should be forced to make some financial contribution to their victims.

Under the bill, which is set to go before the House, parents or guardians who surrender custody of their children for exploitation or for payment or benefit could be charged with an offence.

The passage of the legislation comes even as Jamaica remained on the United States' Special **Watch List** for trafficking in persons.

With the passage of the bill the Government is hoping that the country's status on human trafficking would be improved when the **US State Department's** annual **report on human trafficking** is published in June.

Trafficking in persons contains three components, including the activity itself; travel or movement from one place to another; and the exploitation of the trafficked individual.

Exploitation includes prostitution of a person; compelling or causing a person to provide forced labour; keeping a person in a state of slavery or servitude; engaging the person in any form of sexual exploitation; and the illicit removal of organs.

Source: Caribbean Media Corporation news agency website, Bridgetown, in English 1630 gmt 27 Jan 07

**LOAD-DATE:** January 27, 2007

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Transcript

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# The Mercury News

Found on BayArea.com  
San Jose Mercury News (California)

December 12, 2006 Tuesday

## Taiwan shelter helps abused Vietnamese workers; MOSTLY FUNDED BY VIETNAMESE IN CALIFORNIA

**BYLINE:** K. Oanh Ha, Mercury News

**SECTION:** A; Pg. 1

**LENGTH:** 1187 words

Ta Thi Giam, a Vietnamese mother and wife, was lured by the promise to make \$500 a month. She left her home in a poor village outside Hanoi to toil in a Taiwan nursing home, hoping to use the income to send her children to school.

Instead, Ta said, she was virtually enslaved by her Taiwanese employer, who beat her, deprived her of food and forced her to work until she collapsed.

"They treat you like a beast, not a human being," Ta, 36, said. "They do it because they know you have nowhere, nobody to run to."

Ta fled, after a grueling 18-hour shift in which her fingers curled toward her palms and locked. She found help at a shelter near Taipei run by two Catholic priests and funded mostly by donations from Vietnamese-Americans in California.

Ta's predicament illustrates the growing abuse of migrant workers in Taiwan. Vietnamese workers at the shelter have been raped, beaten, sexually trafficked, coerced into forced labor and cheated out of their wages. The problems are endemic in a flourishing industry in which brokers in both countries profit by duping workers. Abusive employers are complicit, and lax Taiwanese labor laws criminalize workers who flee.

Taiwan officials acknowledge the problem, but critics say they're not doing enough to stem it.

"This is a big, big problem -- trafficking of Vietnamese workers and labor slavery," said Father Nguyen Van Hung, who runs the Vietnamese Migrant Workers & Brides Office outside Taipei in a gated compound that houses a small Catholic church and preschool. "But nobody wants responsibility to protect them, not the Vietnamese or Taiwanese governments."

The office has dealt with 2,500 cases of victimized Vietnamese since it opened in spring 2004. Several hundred are sheltered each year.

The plight of the laborers has alarmed the Vietnamese-American community in California, which covers most of the shelter's operating costs. Bay Area community groups raised \$15,000 at a fundraising dinner for the shelter Friday. Nguyen flew from Taiwan for the event, and was given a standing ovation by nearly 300 in attendance.

"This is a pain shared by everyone in our community," Le Van Hai, a dinner organizer, told the crowd. "We must all do our part to ease the tragedy in Taiwan."

The problem is so widespread that the **U.S. State Department** upgraded Taiwan to a "watch list" in its 2006 **Trafficking in Persons report**, a step away from being among the worst in human trafficking.

Taiwan shelter helps abused Vietnamese workers; MOSTLY FUNDED BY VIETNAMESE IN CALIFORNIA San Jose Mercury News (California) December 12, 2006 Tuesday

According to the report, "a significant share of (Taiwan's 340,000) foreign workers -- primarily from Vietnam, Thailand and the Philippines -- are recruited legally for low-skilled jobs . . . and are subjected to forced labor or involuntary servitude by labor agencies or employers upon arrival in Taiwan."

The vast majority work as domestic servants and caregivers in private homes where they are not protected by Taiwanese labor laws, while others are in construction or manufacturing industries.

Although Taiwan enacted new regulations this year to protect workers, most abusive employers face only fines rather than prosecution, according to the State Department report.

"The government is concerned about the workers and . . . is working on policies to protect them," said spokesman David Wang of Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Taiwan began importing workers from Vietnam in 1999 to address labor shortages. At present, 71,000 Vietnamese workers are in Taiwan, in addition to 10,000 "runaway" workers who have illegally left their jobs, according to the island's government.

A Catholic missionary stationed in Taiwan the past 19 years, Nguyen opened the shelter after encountering abused Vietnamese with nowhere to turn. Most find him through word of mouth. During a recent two-hour period, Nguyen received four phone calls from workers pleading for help. One call came from South Africa where Vietnamese working on a boat were beaten for five days by the Taiwanese ship owner who had smuggled them out of Vietnam.

Many of the "runaway" workers are fleeing situations such as Ta's. She left her abusive employer in the dead of night. A friend gave her the priest's number. Ta fled with no money, cell phone or identity papers because her employer had confiscated them. "They want you to just be blind and mute," said Ta. "They want to control you."

Most workers deplete family savings and assume debt to pay broker's fees, ranging from several thousand to \$8,000, to legally immigrate to Taiwan. Most, however, receive a tiny portion of their wages, the rest going to the broker or to kickbacks for the employer. Often, employers refuse to pay.

Many are controlled by abusive employers with threats they will be sent back to Vietnam empty-handed if they make trouble. Laborers keep more of their earnings during the second year of their contract -- but employers and brokers often plot to send workers home by then.

Faced with abuse or threats of repatriation, many workers run away. But once they leave their employers, they're subject to deportation or lock-up in detention centers. "Taiwan's laws criminalize workers rather than protect them," said Father Nguyen Cuong, who also helps run the shelter. "The workers are very vulnerable and easily exploited."

The priest, who hails from San Jose, rails that the Taiwanese government condones the abuses by not clamping down hard enough on the broker business.

Though Vietnam's government has a representative and office in Taipei, the priests and workers say Vietnamese officials have not responded to pleas for help.

Instead, the priests serve as legal advisers, psychologists and friends to those who seek the shelter. They help laborers sue in civil court for wages owed, and have helped press criminal charges in some cases.

The office is a stark, narrow space on the second floor of a one-room preschool. Hanging on the wood-paneled walls are a cross and an embroidery of a Vietnamese pastoral scene, similar to the rural provinces from which most workers came.

During the day, the office serves as a legal center, classroom and dining hall, with tables and chairs routinely moved around. The 25 migrants now at the shelter, mostly poor women from rural villages, are housed in nearby apartments. They spend most of their day at the shelter, learning computer skills, English, Mandarin and karate.

About half have been raped or sexually assaulted by their employers. A few are abused Vietnamese brides who married Taiwanese men as part of a financial arrangement.

Many don't dare tell family members in Vietnam the truth. The 34-year-old alleged rape victim is married with two children and worries her husband in Vietnam will leave her. She went to Taiwan over his protests.

Despite the possibility she could be abused again by another employer, she, like most victims, wants to stay in Taiwan to work. She paid a Vietnamese broker \$2,000 for her visa.

Taiwan shelter helps abused Vietnamese workers; MOSTLY FUNDED BY VIETNAMESE IN CALIFORNIA San  
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**LOAD-DATE:** December 12, 2006

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# The Washington Post

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## washingtonpost.com

The Washington Post

September 1, 2006 Friday  
Final Edition

### Scold War Buildup; The Perils of Foreign Policy by Report Card

**BYLINE:** John R. Hamilton

**SECTION:** Editorial; A21

**LENGTH:** 723 words

Attempts to explain the vehemence of anti-U.S. feeling abroad correctly home in on Iraq and other unpopular policies of the current administration. But over the past three decades the kudzu-like growth of another U.S. practice, used by Congress and by Democratic and Republican administrations alike, has nurtured seething resentment abroad.

This is what might be called "foreign policy by report card," the issuing of public assessments of the performance of other countries, with the threat of economic or political sanctions for those whose performance, in our view, doesn't make the grade. The overuse of these mandated reports makes us seem judgmental, moralistic and bullying.

The degree to which public reports accompanied by the threat of sanctions have been institutionalized in U.S. policy is stunning. A partial list:

Each year we issue detailed human rights reports on every country in the world, including those whose performance appears superior to our own. We judge whether other countries have provided sufficient cooperation in fighting illegal drugs. We place countries whose protection of intellectual property has been insufficient on "**watch lists**," threatening trade sanctions against those that do not improve. We judge respect for labor rights abroad through a public petition process set up under the System of Generalized (trade) Preferences. We publish annual reports on other countries' respect for religious freedom.

And more: We seek to ensure the adequacy of civil aviation oversight and the security of foreign airports through special inspections and categorizing of government performance. We ban shrimp imports from countries whose fishing fleets do not employ sea turtle extruder devices and yellowfin tuna imports where the protection of dolphins is in our view inadequate. We **report on trafficking in persons** and categorize the performance of every country where such trafficking is a problem, which is just about everywhere. And we withhold military education, training and materiel assistance from countries that do not enter into agreements with **us** to protect our nationals from the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court.

The point is not that these goals are illegitimate. The large majority of Americans would probably support most if not all of them and would be reassured to know that the government is working assiduously to promote them. It is also true that foreign governments do sometimes improve their performance to avoid sanctions or the embarrassment of a critical public report.

But in the aggregate, our public reports have reinforced the view abroad that we set ourselves up unilaterally as police officer, judge and jury of other countries' conduct. Often, governments in developing countries in particular are commit-

ted to the objectives we are promoting, but they are overwhelmed by poverty, political instability and other existential problems that, in their view, dwarf the issues on which we would have them concentrate. Even so, they struggle to improve, say, performance on human trafficking, only to be found lacking with respect to drugs or labor rights. They may well conclude that, however much they try, their best is never good enough for us. The result is demoralization, anger and sullen resistance where we otherwise might have made common cause.

We could adjust this approach, especially where the objectives enjoy broad support in the international community, to advance them through multilateral organizations. We have effectively promoted more vigorous action against money laundering through the broadly based Financial Action Task Force. Several years ago, and as resentment over our annual narcotics certification process threatened to spin out of control, Congress softened the approach and, with modest success, we sought to make the Western Hemisphere portion of it multilateral through the Organization of American States.

Scaling back in other areas would help. It is critical, though, that we refrain from using this tool as we seek to promote new objectives -- however worthy -- in the future. The tolerance of other societies for being publicly judged by the United States has reached its limits.

The writer, who retired last year after 35 years as a Foreign Service officer, served as ambassador to Peru and Guatemala.

**LOAD-DATE:** September 1, 2006

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

**DOCUMENT-TYPE:** Column

**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

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**World Markets**  
Research Centre

IHS Global Insight

**July** 10, 2006

## **Government of U.A.E. Approves Tough Law on Human Trafficking; Penalties Against Labour Law Violators**

**BYLINE:** Anoushka Marashlian**LENGTH:** 354 words

A U.A.E. government committee, chaired by Justice Minister Mohammed al Daheri, yesterday (9 July) approved a draft law which imposes strict penalties against **human trafficking, reports** the U.A.E. daily Gulf News. The legislation will now be submitted to review by the cabinet and is expected to be passed into law before the year s end. The **U.S. State Department** s annual human traffic report 2006 acknowledged notable advances by U.A.E. authorities in improving its human trafficking record, although it still remains on a **watch list** of problem countries. The U.A.E. s reputation as a location for human trafficking and other smuggling operations was raised by opponents of a deal that would have given Dubai Ports World (DPW), a U.A.E.-owned shipping company, some managerial rights over key **U.S.** ports; DPW aborted the American wing of its operations in response to the controversy (see U.A.E.: 10 March 2006: ). Meanwhile, U.A.E. Labour Minister Ali al-Kaabi this weekend also announced that firms violating a ban on outdoor work between the hours 12.30pm to 3pm, when temperatures can reach over 50 degrees Celsius, will be fined and temporarily denied new work permits. The U.A.E. s labour record has long been a source of international concern and came under heightened scrutiny following violent riots in March 2006 at the Burj Dubai site, touted to become the world s tallest building; the damage caused during the Burj Dubai riots was estimated in excess of **US\$1** million. (see U.A.E.: 24 March 2006: ). Significance: U.A.E. authorities are proving more responsive to longstanding international criticism of its labour record and are also moving to amend the U.A.E. s reputation as a human trafficker. Although the steps being taken by the U.A.E. leadership are encouraging, the crucial test, where the U.A.E. has previously been lacking is the implementation stage; some prominent business elites with established ties have previously been allowed to violate labour laws with impunity and it remains to be seen whether they will be affected by the stricter penalties included in this latest law.

**LOAD-DATE:** July 10, 2006**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISHCopyright 2006 IHS Global Insight  
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IRNA

**June** 7, 2006 Wednesday 8:02 AM EST

## India-Eu-Iran

**BYLINE:** Iran News Agency

**LENGTH:** 239 words

**DATELINE:** Tehran, June 07

Headlines in major Indian newspapers

New Delhi, June 7, IRNA India-Press-Headlines The following headlines appeared in major Indian newspapers on Wednesday: \*\*

THE ASIAN AGE - Sensex sinks again - PM not to attend Shanghai summit on June 15 - Big operation by US-led forces on Afghan border - Private players in nuke sector - PM greets Koirala at IGI airport \*\* THE HINDU - Left parties' all-India protest on June 13 - Decision on price hike stands: Deora - Arab cultural center for Jamia Millia University - Agni-III launch in August or September - US puts India on Special **Watch List**

\*\* THE TIMES OF INDIA - EU official lands in Iran with carrots - Sonia asks Deora to review fuel price hike - MEA dubs US report on trafficking in India "judgmental" - Iran reacts cautiously to EU bag of goodies - Bird flu virus in India was most lethal kind

\*\* THE INDIAN EXPRESS - Petrol hike to be brought down from Rs 4 to Rs 3, diesel unchanged - Koirala here, aid package to be announced - IBM triples its India investment to \$6 billion over 3 years - **US human trafficking report** shows India in poor light - Iran cautious on EU's anti-nuke offer \*\* THE STATESMAN - Prachanda demands a republic in Nepal - Five arrested for melting coins - Govt's new initiative to focus on Asia: BBC type channel

India-Eu-Iran IRNA June 7, 2006 Wednesday 8:02 AM EST

soon - India rejects US report on trafficking - Tata tea profit  
up 39 percent

**LOAD-DATE:** June 8, 2006

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

**JOURNAL-CODE:** IRNA

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ARABIA 2000

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Ahead of World Cup, U.S. Warns Germany About Sex Trafficking The New York Times June 6, 2006 Tuesday  
Correction Appended

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The New York Times

**June** 6, 2006 Tuesday  
Correction Appended  
Late Edition - Final

## Ahead of World Cup, U.S. Warns Germany About Sex Trafficking

**BYLINE:** By HELENE COOPER

**SECTION:** Section A; Column 1; Foreign Desk; Pg. 7

**LENGTH:** 645 words

**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON, June 5

On the eve of the World Cup in Germany, the State Department's big concern is not over whether the American soccer team has a prayer of getting past the Czech Republic and Italy, but rather over the flood of prostitutes expected into Germany from Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa.

The United States, in its annual report on forced labor and trafficking in persons, called Germany, which has legalized prostitution, "a source, transit and destination country" for sex workers, the more so during the soccer tournament.

"Due to the sheer size of the event, the potential for human trafficking surrounding the games remains a concern," the State Department said in its report. It called on the German government to increase police enforcement during the games.

The warning to Germany was a rare slap at a close American ally.

The report did not include Germany in a list of 14 more serious offenders that the State Department says make little effort to control serious problems with trafficking in persons.

Some groups criticized the report, noting that most of the countries cited as the worst offenders -- which can lead to economic sanctions -- are not American allies. They include Iran, North Korea, Myanmar, Sudan, Venezuela, Syria, Cuba and Zimbabwe. The only countries on the list that are close American allies are Saudi Arabia and Belize.

India, Mexico and China were on a separate "**watch list**" for the second year, prompting complaints that the State Department was trying not to alienate them.

"What we want is for the United States to implement this law without any political considerations at play," said Jessica Neuwirth, president of Equality Now, an international women's rights organization.

In 2000, Congress passed the Trafficking Victim Protection Act, which set out new penalties for slave traffickers and required the State Department to publish an annual report on slave trafficking worldwide. The sanctions are subject to the president's discretion.

Germany legalized prostitution in 2002, and German brothels have been gearing up for the confluence of legal sex and the World Cup, which is expected to bring 3.5 million tourists to the country for the monthlong tournament, which begins Friday. Berlin, Cologne and Hamburg have all expanded their red light districts for the tournament, and sex-trade entrepreneurs have opened mobile brothels.

The American World Cup team is staying in walking distance from Hamburg's red light district, known in Germany as the Sinful Mile.

German officials, while defending the country's policy of legalized prostitution, say they nonetheless do not condone human trafficking, and have intensified efforts to rein in the flow of prostitutes into their country in advance of the

Ahead of World Cup, U.S. Warns Germany About Sex Trafficking The New York Times June 6, 2006 Tuesday  
Correction Appended

World Cup. But Rep. Christopher Smith of New Jersey, the chairman of the House subcommittee on global human rights, said that Chancellor Angela Merkel needed to do more.

"It's within her power to initiate some moves to protect these women," he said.

The fight against human trafficking is "a great moral calling of our time," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Monday.

The report says that between 600,000 and 800,000 people, most of them women and children, are trafficked across international borders every year. It cited Saudi Arabia, which it said "does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to do so." In Uzbekistan, the report said, "the majority of convicted traffickers received prison sentences of less than 10 years, were granted amnesty, and thus served no time in prison."

Countries that fail to crack down can be subject to a variety of economic and security sanctions. Since 2003, when the sanctions provision took effect, only two countries -- Venezuela and Equatorial Guinea -- have been cited.

**URL:** <http://www.nytimes.com>

**LOAD-DATE:** June 6, 2006

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

**CORRECTION-DATE:** June 10, 2006

**CORRECTION:** An article on Tuesday about a **State Department report on human trafficking**, in which Germany was warned that its laws permitting prostitution could compound the problem during the World Cup, misstated the number of countries subjected to economic and security sanctions by the **United States** for failing to crack down on human trafficking since 2003, when the sanctions provision took effect. It is three, not two. (Besides Venezuela and Equatorial Guinea, Cambodia has been cited.)

**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

India rejects U. S. criticism for inability to control human trafficking Associated Press International June 6, 2006  
Tuesday 12:07 PM GMT

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Associated Press International

**June 6, 2006** Tuesday 12:07 PM GMT

## **India rejects U. S. criticism for inability to control human trafficking**

**SECTION:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**LENGTH:** 236 words

**DATELINE:** NEW DELHI

India on Tuesday criticized the United States for putting it on a **watch list** of nations with a mixed record of tackling human trafficking, child labor and forced marriages.

India "rejects judgmental and prescriptive approach by a foreign government," the External Affairs Ministry said in a statement.

The 2006 **Trafficking in Persons Report** released by the **U.S. State Department** on Monday cites child and forced labor and forced marriages as abuses in India.

The U.S. State Department listed 32 countries, including allies such as Mexico, India and Kuwait, and important world powers including China and Russia, as being on a "**watch list**" of problem nations where the record of prevention and prosecution is mixed.

The Indian ministry statement said India and the United States have an ongoing dialogue on the trafficking in persons, and the annual report "certainly is not helpful to furthering our dialogue."

Rep. Christopher Smith, a Republican author of the 2000 law that established the annual trafficking reports, said in Washington that the Bush administration went too easy on India by placing it on the **watch list** instead of among the dozen worst offenders.

Smith cited India's "blatant unwillingness to address the massive problems of bonded labor and trafficking-related corruption," and said its ranking "reeks of political considerations within the State Department, overriding the facts about human trafficking."

**LOAD-DATE:** June 7, 2006

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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U.S. warns Germany about prostitution dangers during World Cup Associated Press International June 6, 2006 Tuesday  
12:19 AM GMT

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Associated Press International

**June** 6, 2006 Tuesday 12:19 AM GMT

## U.S. warns Germany about prostitution dangers during World Cup

**BYLINE:** By ANNE GEARAN, AP Diplomatic Writer

**SECTION:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**LENGTH:** 868 words

**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The United States is scolding Germany over legalized prostitution that the United States says could endanger women lured or forced to the host country for this month's soccer World Cup.

Worldwide, the State Department reported few successes in efforts to slow what Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice called a "sordid trade in human beings." The department said in a report that 12 nations risk sanctions such as loss of U.S. foreign aid for failing to do enough, or anything at all, to stop human trafficking.

They do not include Germany, but they include crucial U.S. ally Saudi Arabia, which failed to improve its standing during last year.

"Human trafficking is an illicit industry of coercion subjugating and exploiting the world's most vulnerable people for profit and personal gain," Rice said in releasing the annual accounting of a modern-day slave trade in prostitutes, child sex workers and forced laborers.

The United States called Germany a "source, transit and destination country" for prostitutes and exploited labor.

"The U.S. government opposes prostitution," the State Department report said. "These activities are inherently harmful and dehumanizing."

Prostitution is legal in Germany, but the report still gave Germany its highest overall rating for compliance with efforts to stop trafficking, and it noted German efforts to combat exploitation during the World Cup.

"Nonetheless, due to the sheer size of the event, the potential for increased human trafficking during the games remains a concern," the report said.

The four-week-long soccer tournament begins Friday.

Ambassador John Miller, head of the State Department's human trafficking office, said the United States and several European countries are worried about the potential for an increase in trafficking in Germany during the World Cup.

"I have expressed my concern directly to the German ambassador here," Miller told reporters.

The German government, while defending its policy of legalized prostitution, emphatically denies that it condones human trafficking and says it has intensified efforts to combat it.

The press office at the German Embassy in Washington was closed Monday for a holiday.

As many as 800,000 people are bought and sold across national borders annually or lured to other countries with false promises of work or other benefits, the State Department said in its annual survey of international human trafficking. Most are women or children.

The 2006 **Trafficking in Persons Report** required by Congress ranks about 150 countries. It does not rank the **United States**, but it includes an assessment that **U.S.** efforts to curb cross-border trafficking "need improvement."

U.S. warns Germany about prostitution dangers during World Cup Associated Press International June 6, 2006 Tuesday  
12:19 AM GMT

Apart from Saudi Arabia and the Central American nation of Belize, the list of 12 violators reads like a catalog of nations at perpetual odds with the Bush administration: Myanmar, Cuba, Iran, Laos, North Korea, Sudan, Syria, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Zimbabwe.

The Venezuelan Embassy accused the Bush administration of ignoring the country's "many efforts" to combat trafficking. It said the designation was an attempt to isolate and antagonize the country's leftist government.

Countries that fail to crack down on trafficking can be subject to a variety of sanctions, including the withholding of some kinds of U.S. foreign aid. The United States will not cut off trade and humanitarian aid, the report said.

Countries that receive no such assistance can be declared ineligible to participate in cultural and educational exchange programs.

Three countries have been sanctioned since the reports began Cambodia, Equatorial Guinea and Venezuela.

The State Department listed 32 other countries, including allies such as Mexico, India and Kuwait, and important world powers including China and Russia, on a "watch list" of problem nations where the record of prevention and prosecution is mixed.

Rep. Christopher Smith, a Republican author of the 2000 law that established the annual trafficking reports, said the Bush administration went too easy on India by placing it on the watch list instead of among the dozen worst offenders. The report cites child and forced labor and forced marriages as abuses in India.

Smith cited India's "blatant unwillingness to address the massive problems of bonded labor and trafficking-related corruption" and said its ranking "reeks of political considerations within the State Department overriding the facts about human trafficking."

"I am not pleased" by the relatively mild Bush administration rebuke to Germany, Smith said. He held a hearing last month at which women's rights advocates said potentially 40,000 women and children, most from Eastern Europe, could be imported to serve men visiting Germany during the four-week tournament that begins Friday.

Germany's sex-industry entrepreneurs say they expect a boom during the 32-nation tournament. At the 40-bedroom Artemis brothel, which opened in Berlin last fall, manager Egbert Krumeich predicted business could double or triple from its usual 130 customers a day.

Germany has about 400,000 registered sex workers who pay taxes and receive social benefits. However, the government says forced prostitution is not tolerated.

On the Net:

State Department: <http://www.state.gov>

**LOAD-DATE:** June 6, 2006

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

U.S. warns Germany about prostitution dangers at World Cup soccer tournament The Associated Press June 5, 2006  
Monday 9:26 PM GMT

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The Associated Press

**June** 5, 2006 Monday 9:26 PM GMT

## **U.S. warns Germany about prostitution dangers at World Cup soccer tournament**

**BYLINE:** By ANNE GEARAN, AP Diplomatic Writer

**SECTION:** WASHINGTON DATELINE

**LENGTH:** 810 words

**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The United States chided Germany on Monday over legalized prostitution that the U.S. says could endanger women lured or forced to the host country for this month's soccer World Cup.

Worldwide, the State Department reported few successes in efforts to slow what Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice called a "sordid trade in human beings." The department said 12 nations risk sanctions such as loss of U.S. foreign aid for failing to do enough, or anything at all, to stop human trafficking.

That doesn't include Germany, but it does include key U.S. ally Saudi Arabia, which did not improve its standing over last year.

"Human trafficking is an illicit industry of coercion subjugating and exploiting the world's most vulnerable people for profit and personal gain," Rice said in releasing an annual accounting of a modern-day slave trade in prostitutes, child sex workers and forced laborers.

The United States called Germany a "source, transit and destination country" for prostitutes and exploited labor.

"The U.S. government opposes prostitution," which is legal in Germany, the State Department report said. "These activities are inherently harmful and dehumanizing."

The report still gave Germany its highest overall rating for compliance with efforts to stop trafficking, and it noted German efforts to combat exploitation during the World Cup.

"Nonetheless, due to the sheer size of the event, the potential for increased human trafficking during the games remains a concern," the report said.

Ambassador John Miller, who heads the State Department's trafficking office, said the United States and several European countries are concerned about the potential for an increase in trafficking in Germany during the World Cup.

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State Department: <http://www.state.gov>

**LOAD-DATE:** June 6, 2006

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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Jiji Press Ticker Service

**May** 16, 2006 Tuesday 2:46 AM JST

## Japan, Thailand to Combat Human Trafficking

**LENGTH:** 156 words**DATELINE:** Bangkok, May 15

Japan and Thailand set up a task force Monday to eradicate human trafficking, the first initiative of its kind for Japan.

At a meeting in Bangkok the same day, members of a Japanese government mission and Thai government officials agreed to share information on individual cases of human trafficking and step up education for Thai women in order to prevent them from being involved in such incidents.

The Japanese mission consisted of seven officials from government agencies including the Foreign Ministry and the National Policy Agency.

From Thursday, Japan will hold similar talks with Indonesia.

Japanese police made arrests in 319 cases of human trafficking between 2001 and 2005. Thai women topped the list of victims, accounting for 169.

The **United States** criticized Japan for lack of sufficient efforts to prevent human trafficking in the country and placed it on a special **watch list** of countries in its 2004 **report on human trafficking**.

**LOAD-DATE:** May 15, 2006**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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US Fed News

**February** 9, 2006 Thursday 11:32 PM EST

## U.S. PRAISES SLOVAKIA'S PROGRESS IN COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

**BYLINE:** US Fed News**LENGTH:** 397 words**DATELINE:** BRATISLAVA, Slovakia

The U.S. Embassy issued the following press release:

An interim progress report submitted by the U.S. Department of State to Congress praises Slovakia's "considerable political will and progress in combating trafficking in persons" since its placement on the "Special **Watch List**" last June.

The report cited Slovakia's creation of a National Coordinating Expert Working Group in April 2005, and the appointment in October of a national coordinator for the fight against trafficking in persons. According to the progress report, Slovakia has shown dedication to increasing its victim assistance network, acquiring additional equipment and training for police, and establishing an improved hotline for trafficking victims. The report also commends Slovakia for its increased outreach and educational efforts, including a media campaign to raise public awareness, and the distribution of informational flyers in police stations and high schools.

The February 1 report, called an "Interim Assessment," evaluates the progress made by countries that are on the "Special **Watch List**" in addressing key deficiencies that were highlighted in the **U.S. State Department's** June 2005 **Trafficking in Persons Report**. The Slovak Republic was included along with 36 other countries on the "Special **Watch List**" last June because it had not shown evidence of increasing efforts to address trafficking in persons in previous years. That assessment has now changed, with significant progress by the Government of Slovakia. The **State Department's** full annual **report on Trafficking in Persons** will be issued later this year.

U.S. Ambassador to the Slovak Republic Rodolphe M. Vallee said that the interim progress report reflects the strong commitment Slovakia has shown to combating trafficking in persons: "Slovakia has demonstrated that it is serious about the struggle to abolish trafficking in persons, and is emerging as a valued partner and role model on this issue within the region," the Ambassador said. "While there remains a lot of work to be done, Slovakia has set a course in the past year which we think will help protect the citizens of Slovakia and other countries from being denied their most basic human rights and falling into this terrible form of modern-day slavery."

More information, including the full text of the Interim Assessment, is available at <http://www.state.gov/g/tip>.

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at [htsyndication@hindustantimes.com](mailto:htsyndication@hindustantimes.com)

**LOAD-DATE:** February 28, 2006**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

U.S. PRAISES SLOVAKIA'S PROGRESS IN COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS US Fed News February  
9, 2006 Thursday 11:32 PM EST

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Facts on File World News Digest

**June 30, 2005**

## **Human Rights; U.S. Cites 14 Nations for Human Trafficking**

**SECTION:** Pg. 431F2**LENGTH:** 307 words

The U.S. State Department June 3 released a report criticizing the governments of 14 countries for allowing human trafficking and other forms of forced labor, and for doing little or nothing to end the practice. Among the 14 nations cited were four prominent U.S. allies in the Middle East: Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia, none of which had been cited in the 2004 report.

The other 10 nations cited were Bolivia, Cambodia, Cuba, Ecuador, Jamaica, Myanmar, North Korea, Sudan, Togo and Venezuela. [See 2002 Human Rights: **U.S. Reports on Human Trafficking**]

The **State Department** had begun issuing the annual **Trafficking in Persons Report** in 2001, as required by the **U.S.**'s 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection Act. Under the law, the **U.S.** could penalize nations for permitting human trafficking, but only Equatorial Guinea and Venezuela had been sanctioned.

Introducing the report, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said, "Trafficking in human beings is nothing less than a modern form of slavery." The report estimated that 800,000 people were trafficked between countries against their will each year, including some 15,000 who entered the U.S.

The report cited Saudi Arabia for failing to have laws that protected foreign workers who entered the country, among other problems. The State Department cited Kuwait, Qatar, and the UAE for holding small children in captivity, some as young as three or four years old, for use as jockeys in camel races. The U.S. also criticized the four Persian Gulf states for allowing the trafficking of women for sexual exploitation.

The State Department put 27 other countries, including China, on its **watch list**. That classification meant that the countries had significant human trafficking problems but that their governments were taking steps to address the issue.

**LOAD-DATE:** July 7, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

Deutsche Presse-Agentur, June 5, 2005

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Deutsche Presse-Agentur

## Philippines vows to tighten curbs on human trafficking

June 5, 2005, Sunday  
06:27:39 Central European Time

**DATELINE:** Manila

The Philippine government said Sunday it was doing its best to curb human trafficking in the country, which remains on the U.S. State Department's **watch list** of nations failing to make progress in eliminating the global problem.

The U.S. said the Philippines' inclusion in the **watch list** was due to the government's "failure to show evidence of increasing efforts to convict traffickers."

Presidential spokesman Ignacio Bunye said the government has a clear policy against human trafficking, but admitted that stepped-up cooperation among agencies and the public was necessary to boost efforts.

"We are doing everything we can to hunt down those involved in the illegal human traffic trade," he said. "But we need the cooperation of all agencies involved and the ordinary citizens to stop the problem."

"We are doing our best," he added. "We realised that more needs to be done, but we are doing our best."

According to the **U.S. State Department's** 2005 Trafficking in Persons (**TIP**) **report**, there was also newfound evidence that the Philippines has become both a transit point and a destination for trafficked women from China.

It added that despite training of law enforcers on anti-trafficking laws and the appointment of special prosecutors, "the number of trafficking-related prosecutions remained low."

"There were no reported convictions under the anti-trafficking law of 2003," it said, adding that a weak judicial system and corruption among law enforcers were to blame for the Philippines' poor performance.

The report acknowledged the Philippine government's "modest efforts" in raising awareness about human trafficking and assigning up to 14 agencies on "prevention-oriented" campaigns. It also noted a decline in illegal recruitment of overseas workers.

In October last year, the U.S. gave funding for three projects aimed at combating human trafficking in the Philippines, where tens of thousands of women and children are trafficked every year and forced into prostitution and slavery in various countries.

According to the United Nations, poverty, lack of job opportunities and education, as well as armed conflict, were fueling human trafficking in the Philippines. dpa gl tl

**SECTION:** Miscellaneous

**LENGTH:** 373 words

**LOAD-DATE:** June 10, 2005

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

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The Washington Times

**June** 4, 2005 Saturday**U.S. raps Saudi Arabia, 3 Arab allies for 'slavery'****BYLINE:** By Betsy Pisik, THE WASHINGTON TIMES**SECTION:** WORLD; Pg. A06**LENGTH:** 470 words

Annual report cites 14 nations for rights abuse

The United States criticized Saudi Arabia and three other Gulf Arab allies yesterday for allowing modern-day "slavery" to continue, a move the Bush administration hopes will prompt human rights reform in the Middle East.

The annual **U.S. report on human trafficking** also cited Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), placing them in the same category of rights violators as Sudan, North Korea and Cuba.

In all, 14 countries were singled out as nations that "do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so."

Eight countries were added to the list: Bolivia, Cambodia, Jamaica, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Togo and the UAE.

Six other nations that were already on the list remained: Burma, Cuba, Ecuador, North Korea, Sudan and Venezuela.

Practices include the de facto imprisonment of domestic workers, the brutality of sexual slavery and the indentured servitude of child laborers.

"Trafficking in human beings is nothing less than a modern form of slavery," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said in releasing the report.

"The United States has a particular duty to fight this scourge because trafficking in persons is an affront to the principles of human dignity and liberty, upon which this nation was founded," Miss Rice said.

The Bush administration estimates that 800,000 people were forced into some form of involuntary work last year, up to half of which were minors. Women and children account for close to 80 percent.

The **State Department's "Trafficking in Persons" report** examined the records of 150 nations and put 14 of those on notice that their human rights records were falling short of **U.S.**-mandated human rights norms.

If these countries do not take steps to improve within three months, the administration may impose sanctions against them.

The Bush administration, which spent \$96 million to combat human trafficking in 2004, has stepped up efforts to combat such practices in recent years, using multilateral treaties, bilateral pressure and other tactics to curb a practice it sees as financing terrorism, spreading AIDS and violating its victims.

Put on warning, or the report's "**watch list**," were China, Greece, Haiti, India, Mexico, the Philippines, Russia, South Africa and Ukraine.

Saudi Arabia was cited in the report for "its lack of progress in anti-trafficking efforts, particularly its failure to protect victims and prosecute those guilty of involuntary servitude."

The UAE is a land of forced labor and child labor, such as the use of young Southeast Asian boys as camel jockeys who are beaten and poorly cared for, the report said.

U.S. raps Saudi Arabia, 3 Arab allies for 'slavery' The Washington Times June 4, 2005 Saturday

Countries on last year's list but removed this year were: Bangladesh, Equatorial Guinea, Guyana and Sierra Leone.  
Congress ordered the annual reports beginning in 2000.

**LOAD-DATE:** June 6, 2005

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

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Xinhua General News Service

**June** 4, 2005 Saturday 1:15 AM EST**Major news items in leading Indian newspapers****SECTION:** WORLD NEWS**LENGTH:** 223 words**DATELINE:** NEW DELHI

Following are the major news items in leading Indian newspapers on Saturday.

Hindustan Times:

-- Energy cooperation is likely to be the "big ticket" issue of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's first bilateral visit to Washington from July 18 to 20.

According to US President George W. Bush, "big things" are expected to emanate from this visit, with both countries "joingly engaged in the process of widening and deepening" their "multifaceted cooperative relationship."

The Times of India:

-- The **US state department** has included India among countries in the "**watch list**" in its annual report on global human trafficking released on Friday, for the second year in succession, saying it did not show "evidence of increased efforts to address trafficking in persons." The fifth annual **trafficking in persons report**, which meanwhile removed Pakistan from the **watch list**.

The Hindu:

-- Ending all speculation to the contrary, India has come out in support of a controversial Sri Lankan Government proposal to involve the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in a joint domestic mechanism for administering post-tsunami operations in that country. The India-Sri Lanka joint statement was issued in New Delhi on Friday during the ongoing working visit of Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga.

**LOAD-DATE:** June 5, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire

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AP Worldstream

June 3, 2005 Friday

## Five Middle East nations cited by U.S. in trafficking report

**BYLINE:** HARRY DUNPHY; Associated Press Writer

**SECTION:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**LENGTH:** 604 words

**DATELINE:** WASHINGTON

The U.S. government said Friday five Middle East countries risk sanctions because their efforts to halt trafficking in persons are insufficient.

The findings were in the **State Department's** annual "**Trafficking in Persons**" report, which is aimed at raising public awareness of the global trafficking problem and encourage governments to combat it.

Four countries new to the annual list are Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Sudan has been cited before. While not cited, a sixth nation, Bahrain, was put on a **watch list**.

The report said the governments of Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia do "not comply with minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and are not making significant efforts to do so."

It said the United Arab Emirates government "does not collect statistics on persons trafficked into the country, making it difficult to assess its efforts to combat the problem."

While equally critical of Sudan, the report said the Khartoum government was making some progress in eliminating trafficking except in the troubled western region of Darfur where Sudanese of African origin are battling an Arab militia known as the Janjaweed.

The report said the Kuwait government "has issued public declarations against trafficking, but there is no evidence of judicial action against trafficking despite ongoing reporting of physical and sexual abuse of domestic workers, physical abuse of laborers and exploitation of trafficked child camel jockeys."

Camel races are immensely popular in the Gulf and children - some as young as 4 - have been favored as jockeys because they are light. The jockeys, riding barebacked, are strapped to the camels' backs, risk dangerous falls and trampling.

The report also cited Qatar and the United Arab Emirates as having boys trafficked into their countries from East Africa and South Asia as camel jockeys.

The report said Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates are destination countries for men, women and children trafficked primarily from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka for labor exploitation

"Some foreign women who migrate legally to Kuwait as domestic workers are subsequently abused by their employers or coerced into situations of debt bondage and involuntary servitude," the report said.

It said Saudi Arabia was moved to the possible sanction list "because of its lack of progress in anti-trafficking efforts, particularly its lack of progress in anti-trafficking efforts, particularly its failure to protect victims and prosecute those guilty of involuntary servitude."

The government offers no legal aid to foreign victims, the report said, nor does it otherwise assist them in using the Saudi criminal justice system to bring their exploiters to justice.

Five Middle East nations cited by U.S. in trafficking report AP Worldstream June 3, 2005 Friday

The Saudi government does, however, provide food and shelter for female workers who file complaints or run away from their employers, the report said.

It said Bahrain while not fully complying with the minimum standards for elimination of trafficking, however, "is making significant efforts to do so."

The report said Sudan's Darfur region "remained embroiled in a separate bitter conflict, in which numerous rapes, atrocities and abductions were reported to have taken place during the year."

During the reporting period, the survey said, Janjaweed militias that have been supported by the government of Sudan "subjected civilians to grievous human rights and alleged trafficking-related abuses."

It said the lack of security in Darfur impeded the ability to gather further information on these reports, "which is of grave concern."

**LOAD-DATE:** June 4, 2005

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

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CNN

**June 3, 2005** Friday**SHOW:** NEWS FROM CNN 12:00 PM EST**Slavery Lives; Massacre on Tape; Interview With Jaap de Hoop Scheffer****BYLINE:** Wolf Blitzer, Andrea Koppel, Lindsey Hilsum, Tom Murphy, Jeffrey Toobin, Jennifer Eccleston**GUESTS:** Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, John Snow**SECTION:** NEWS; International**LENGTH:** 6916 words

**HIGHLIGHT:** The secretary of state, Condoleezza Rice, about to report to the nation and the world on a continuing worldwide plague that includes forcing women into lives of prostitution and innocent children into combat. Serb leaders no longer can deny killings that took place after a video surfaces showing killings of Bosnian Muslims a decade ago. Interview with Jaap de Hoop Scheffer.

WOLF BLITZER, CNN ANCHOR: The **State Department** about to release its annual **report on human trafficking**. We'll go there live. The secretary of state, Condoleezza Rice, will be speaking.

Also, there's new evidence of atrocities during the Balkan wars. We'll give you details on that. And our Brent Sadler will join us to recall his own coverage of the slaughter at Srebrenica.

Then, the future of NATO at a time of political uncertainty in Europe. The NATO secretary-general, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, he joins us to talk about the strength and the weaknesses of the Atlantic alliance.

First, some other headlines ""Now in the News."

At last word, as you just saw here on CNN, Canadian officials were preparing to board a diverted British airliner in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Security officials in the United States and Britain say the hijack signal the plane apparently sent was a false alarm. The officials in Canada want to make sure nearly 300 people remain on the plane, Virgin Atlantic Flight 45 from London to New York.

Canadian officials spoke out only moments ago.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

CST. JOE TAPLIN, ROYAL CORPS OF MOUNTED POLICE: Just approximately 11:30 this morning, RCMP responded to an emergency situation at the Halifax International Airport. Halifax International Airport notified RCMP of a plane being diverted from Heathrow. It was en route to JFK Airport in New York.

The plane has landed in Halifax International Airport. The emergency situation is still ongoing. At this present time, we're trying to make contact with the pilot of the airplane, of Virgin's airline, to determine what the emergency is, and that's all the information I have at this time.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BLITZER: And we'll go back to the scene shortly to speak with a reporter there.

Slavery Lives; Massacre on Tape; Interview With Jaap de Hoop Scheffer CNN June 3, 2005 Friday

Other news, the defense winding up its final arguments in the Michael Jackson trial. The case could go to the jury by early afternoon. The pop star facing 10 felony counts. If found guilty on all the counts, he could be jailed for up to 20 years.

Among the most popular stories we're watching this hour on CNN.com, a gruesome discovery in Austria. Police find the bodies of four newborns, two of them stuffed into a freezer at an apartment complex in the southern city of Graz.

You want to read more details about this gruesome story? Go to CNN.com.

Up first, a disturbing reminder of the evil of slavery, and the fact that it still continues until this day. The secretary of state, Condoleezza Rice, about to report to the nation and the world on a continuing worldwide plague that includes forcing women into lives of prostitution and innocent children into combat.

As we await Secretary Rice's remarks, let's turn to our State Department correspondent, Andrea Koppel. She's joining us now live with a preview -- Andrea.

ANDREA KOPPEL, CNN STATE DEPT. CORRESPONDENT: Wolf, this is the report. We can't actually tell you what's in it yet until Secretary Rice has come to the podium. But I can tell you that this problem of trafficking, the numbers are absolutely staggering.

The purpose of this report is really -- it's supposed to be a diplomatic tool for the U.S. to both coax and if necessary penalize countries that aren't doing enough to crack down on trafficking. And, in fact, the trafficking also happens here in the United States.

Here are some of the statistics. There are between 600,000 to 800,000 men, women and children who are smuggled against their will from one country into another every year, 14,500 to 17,500 are brought here into the United States.

They're victims forced into everything from prostitution to working in sweat shops, domestic labor, farming and even child armies. Eighty percent of the victims are women. We're talking about young women, mostly, and children. Up to 50 percent of them are minors, and 70 percent are used in the commercial sex industry.

Now, what the State Department has been doing, this is the fifth year they've come out with this report. And progressively, over the years, what they've been able to do is, the countries that are the worst offenders, they have the threat of sanctions, they have the threat that they're not going to get U.S. aid. And this actually, Wolf, they have seen tangible proof that these kinds of sticks that they hold over their heads of those countries are actually improving their records on the ground.

You have 35 -- 32 countries in the last five years that have put laws on the books to combat trafficking in children and sex crimes in the sex industry. And I've talked to people over the last several days who have been involved in going to -- going to these countries and seeing the tangible evidence on the ground that things have improved.

Wolf, back to you.

BLITZER: All right. We'll stand by and get some more information, shocking information, from the secretary of state, Condoleezza Rice. Andrea Koppel reporting for us from the State Department. Thanks, Andrea, very much.

Shocking that these things still go on in this day and age.

For years, Serb leaders denied it. They no longer can after a video surfaces showing the killings of Bosnian Muslims a decade ago.

The footage shows executions in Srebrenica, site of the worst mass killings in Europe since World War II. It aired for the first time at the trial of the former Yugoslav president, Slobodan Milosevic.

Let's get some more now from ITN's Lindsey Hilsum.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

LINDSEY HILSUM, REPORTER, ITN (voice-over): The Hague war crimes tribunal, more evidence against former President Milosevic of Yugoslavia. A video about the Serbian paramilitary group, the Scorpions.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: You see here a ceremony of the Scorpions.

HILSUM: And then a much more horrific video, showing the massacre of Bosnian Muslims at Srebrenica in 1995. The video shows six young Muslim men in the back of a military truck. They're hauled out by members of the Scorpions, the paramilitary unit.

The Serbs shout insults. And it seems the Muslims are about to be shot.

These horrific pictures were aired on Serbian television. The pictures were taken by a member of the Scorpions. Its existence has been rumored for years, but never before has it been shown in public.

A shot is fired over the heads of the Muslim victims. Faces of the perpetrators can be clearly seen. The paramilitaries wore a black uniform with a red beret. Dark green and camouflage were the uniforms of the Yugoslav army, the JNA, which was under President Milosevic's command.

The young men are led away to a clearing. They were amongst up to 7,000 who lost their lives at Srebrenica. We won't show the men being killed, but they did show it on Serb TV.

A poll last month suggested that half the Serbian population still don't believe there ever was a massacre at Srebrenica 10 years ago. Maybe this evidence will change some minds.

Two men are made to carry the bodies of their dead comrades. Even Serb TV found it too horrific to show the video of their torture and murder. President Milosevic conducts his own defense, denying responsibility, often denying that atrocities ever happened in Bosnia. Eight members of the Scorpions were arrested in Belgrade, but the direct link to the former president still needs to be proved.

U.N. troops failed to prevent the massacre. The Bosnians who survived want justice for those who died. And they want ordinary Serbs to acknowledge what happened at Srebrenica.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

BLITZER: That report from ITN's Lindsey Hilsum.

Among the journalists who braved the civil wars in the Balkans was our own Brent Sadler. He's now CNN's senior international correspondent. He's on assignment in Beirut.

But Brent, take us back 10 years. You were there at Srebrenica, you remember what was going on. What, about 8,000 Bosnian Muslims were massacred, at least the numbers that I've read?

BRENT SADLER, CNN SR. INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENT: That's right, Wolf. If we take you back almost a decade, in fact a decade next month, I can recall very vividly the events leading up to the stories about this massacre. Allegedly at that time, the worst massacre in Europe since the Second World War.

What really does stick in my mind from that period were pictures of the Bosnian Serb army commander, General Radko Mladic, who is an indicted war criminal for the Srebrenica massacre wanted by the war crimes tribunal in the Hague, coldly sifting out the men from the women and the children.

We journalists in Sarajevo at that time saw video of Radko Mladic telling women and children in a sickening way that they should board buses and trucks, leave the safe haven as it should have been of Srebrenica, that they will be reunited with their men later.

Mladic at that time must surely have known what was going on, that the men had been filtered out, had been taken away to other locations and were in a process of being systematically massacred, as many as 8,000. Those pictures, Wolf, will never, ever fade from my mind.

BLITZER: And these latest pictures that were released at the war crimes tribunal only yesterday, I suppose it's going to be almost impossible for these Bosnian Serbs, whether it's Mladic or Karadzic, or any of these guys who are still on the loose right now, to be able to deny they were engaged in these kinds of atrocities.

SADLER: That's right. This video that's come out in the Hague really does, as far as the Serbs are concerned, open a chamber of horrors, horrors of which there is now undeniable, cold, shocking evidence.

This video was shown, as we heard from that report, on Serbian television, on at least two stations there, and some of it in unedited form. And the reaction in Serbia is going to be very interesting. Why? Because those two war crimes suspects, the top two, General Radko Mladic and his political mentor, Radovan Karadzic, leader of the Bosnian Serbs during that Balkans conflict, are at large still.

They're wanted by the war crimes tribunal. And they have been able to find sympathizers in Serbia, it's said, in Montenegro, as well as in the Serb parts of Bosnia for them to be able to escape justice, to escape the long arm of the Hague war crimes tribunal.

This video, shown as it was on Serbian TV, will doubtless change many minds, and will put a lot of pressure both internationally and domestically on Serbian authorities to help to do the best they can to help the international community track down those two most-wanted men.

BLITZER: Brent Sadler reporting for us from Beirut. Brent, thanks very much. Thanks for your reporting now, and thanks for your reporting then.

This note, we'll have more on this coming up. The NATO secretary-general, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, is here in Washington. And I'll ask him why can't the NATO troops in the Balkans right now find those indicted war criminals still on the loose after 10 years.

Let's get back to that other story we're watching, that Virgin Atlantic flight that was diverted to Halifax. Reporter Tom Murphy from Canada's CBC TV joining us now live from Nova Scotia with more.

What have you been able to glean, Tom?

TOM MURPHY, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA: Well, Wolf, we can tell you right now that the aircraft is still on the tarmac. And just moments ago, a S.W.A.T. team boarded the aircraft.

The RCMP are telling us this is standard procedure for this sort of thing. They'll be checking the aircraft out, looking to check the veracity, really, of this warning signal, this hijack warning signal that came out on this flight over the Atlantic earlier this morning.

Here is Joe Taplin of the RCMP.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

CST. JOE TAPLIN, RCMP: Right now, that's what we're trying to determine, the exact -- the exact emergency which took place to make the beacon respond.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: What will happen at this point? Will we see S.W.A.T. team members here?

TAPLIN: That's a normal procedure for us. It's a safety issue. So we're trying to determine exactly what the emergency is and why the plane was diverted to Halifax. And right now we're in the process of trying to contact the pilot, and then we'll -- should have an update later on exactly what took place.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: What will happen to the passengers on board?

TAPLIN: They're still on board right now. And once they determine what the emergency was or not, the passengers will probably be cleared through Customs. That's all the information I have right now.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

MURPHY: That's Royal Canadian Mounted Police spokesperson Joe Taplin.

Now, we're told there are about 290 individuals on the aircraft, and we are told also from one of the media reports that the airline instructed or talked to the pilot over the Atlantic, and the pilot assured them that everything was fine, that the cockpit had been obviously reinforced, bulletproof. Those measures taken since 9/11, and that things were just fine.

They pulled into Halifax Airport here, being escorted by two Canadian fighter jets, and, again, that S.W.A.T. team that assembled on the ground and now has just boarded the aircraft -- Wolf.

BLITZER: We know that some planes are diverted to Canada or other locations in Bangor, Maine, for example, if there is someone suspected of being on a terrorist **watch list**. But this seems to be pretty unusual, that there was this supposed false alarm as a hijacking is concerned.

Do you know, or do authorities at the Halifax Airport know of previous incidents similar to this, or is this extraordinary?

MURPHY: Well, we're being told that it may very well be some sort of a technical malfunction. And if that's the case, I don't remember that happening here at the Halifax Airport before.

The Halifax Airport, of course, was the scene on September 11 of dozens of aircraft from North American airspace that were diverted here as a result of the attacks in the United States. So the airport itself does have experience with this, and lot of these protocols that we're seeing happening now, like the S.W.A.T. team in place, and so on, is a reaction to that training that has been built up since 9/11.

But really, in terms of exact details, and of this exact sort of incident happening before, no one here, certainly at the RMCP, can't really put a finger on that having happened here before.

BLITZER: All right. We'll continue to watch it. Tom Murphy of the CBC for us in Halifax. Tom, thanks very much for that report.

Proof positive of the massacre at Srebrenica. New visual evidence, shocking evidence of war crimes in the Balkans a decade ago. We'll have more on that story.

And a nighttime ride ends with a 14-year-old boy fighting for his life today in Arizona. We'll have details of that in our news "Across America." Much more NEWS FROM CNN coming up. We're back in a moment.

BLITZER: Human trafficking, it's shocking but true. Hundreds of thousands of people in this day and age around the world still forced into slavery, forced into warfare, forced into prostitution.

Only a few moment ago, the secretary of state, Condoleezza Rice, released the **State Department's annual report on human trafficking**, and she explained why this issue is so important to the **United States**.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

CONDOLEEZZA RICE, SECRETARY OF STATE: The United States has a particular duty to fight this scourge, because trafficking in persons is an affront to the principles of human dignity and liberty upon which this nation was founded. We estimate that up to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders every year. And millions more are trafficked internally.

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BLITZER: And we'll have much more on this report coming up later today, 5:00 p.m. Eastern, on "WOLF BLITZER REPORTS."

One of our frequent guests here on NEWS FROM CNN is Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, the secretary-general of NATO. He's visiting Washington once again, and just a little while ago we spoke with him on a range of important subjects, including the shocking new proof of atrocities by the Serbs during the Bosnian civil war.

(BEGIN VIDEOTAPE)

Secretary-General, thanks very much for joining us. Welcome back to Washington.

JAAP DE HOOP SCHEFFER, NATO SECRETARY-GENERAL: Thank you.

BLITZER: There is this horrible video that has now been released, showing the massacre of these young Bosnian Muslims, these teenage boys, and it has revived what happened there 10 years ago in Srebrenica.

NATO is now involved in dealing with this problem, but these war criminals, alleged war criminals, are still at large -- Radko Mladic, Radovan Karadzic.

DE HOOP SCHEFFER: It gives me, I can tell you, Wolf, a good sense of frustration. Apparently, they are protected, because otherwise it's impossible that one can't find them.

I must add that NATO is not in Serbia proper, of course. I mean, they seem to be able to travel from the republic of (INAUDIBLE) Bosnia to Serbia proper. NATO isn't there, but the hunt goes on. And I'm quite sure that they -- they will not be able to run forever. BLITZER: When you -- when you hear about this videotape, and it bring back the memories of what happened 10 years ago, as the secretary-general of NATO right now, what goes through your mind?

DE HOOP SCHEFFER: Well, it has a very personal element for me, because I was in the Netherlands then as a member of parliament. I was spokesman for foreign affairs. And I have been, let's say, rather closely involved in the Srebrenica massacre, which saw -- and we saw it on the video -- the horror of war, of civil war, religious war in Europe. In Europe...

BLITZER: There were Dutch troops on the scene at the time.

DE HOOP SCHEFFER: There were.

BLITZER: And I remember vividly they didn't do anything, even as the reports of the massacres were coming in.

DE HOOP SCHEFFER: They did what they could do. But there's an important "but." They were not supported, and they should have been supported by air strikes and the bombing of the Serb troops.

It would have been possible, it didn't happen. For political reasons it did not happen. That's the shame of Srebrenica.

And we should remember that it is the biggest massacre on European soil since the Second World War. And if I see that video, I can tell you many emotions are coming back with me.

BLITZER: All right. Let's go from that massacre to what's happening in Sudan and Darfur right now. NATO has not yet been involved, but you're about to get involved, at least indirectly, in dealing with the horrors that are going there.

DE HOOP SCHEFFER: Indeed. The African Union, which is running a mission in Darfur -- almost 10,000 people die every month, two million-plus in camps. The African Union -- the Africans have come to NATO, and that's a first, "Could you please help us, logistically? Could you lift, transport our troops, African troops into Darfur? Could you perhaps train our people, our headquarters staff?"

"Could you help with communication?" Could you help with transport, with the bands of (INAUDIBLE) on the ground?"

And I mean, it would, of course, be impossible if that question comes from the African Union to say, no, so we are in the process.

BLITZER: There's a consensus now that all the NATO members, the allies, have agreed that they will, at least logistically, help the African Union?

DE HOOP SCHEFFER: Well, formally, there is no consensus yet. We are in the process of preparing an answer to the African Union. But you can -- you can take it on my authority that NATO will help, that NATO must help. The European Union, by the way, will do the same, because the African Union had also gone to the European Union, "Could you help us?" And in coordination with the European Union, NATO will certainly help, and NATO must help.

But I have to point out to you, this is an African Union mission. It is not a NATO operation or a NATO mission. NATO is not going to put combat soldiers on the ground in Darfur.

BLITZER: From the African Union, as you point out, to the European Union, what's happening in Europe? Your country, the Netherlands, just rejected the European Union constitution days after France, the people of France, did exactly the same thing.

Is this European Union concept falling apart?

DE HOOP SCHEFFER: Well, it is clear that in France and the Netherlands, that people have shown that they do not want this constitutional treaty. I think there's more happening in Europe than just a vote on the European -- on the European treaty.

Let me say as NATO secretary-general that NATO needs a strong European Union, as the United States, I think, needs a strong partner in Europe in a strong European Union. Well, the end result of this will be -- is very difficult to predict, but the Dutch have said no in large numbers, so have the French.

I said yes, I can -- I can tell you, because I think...

BLITZER: You voted in favor of the constitution?

DE HOOP SCHEFFER: Yes, absolutely. I mean, I was a foreign minister, and I was involved in negotiating this constitutional treaty. So it will come as no surprise to anybody that I voted yes personally.

But now as NATO secretary-general, it is relevant for NATO. NATO needs a partnership with the European Union, that this European Union develops in a strong way. Well, one thing one can say, of course, after Sunday in France and Wednesday in the Netherlands, is that the European leaders now have to figure out how they want to proceed and then what direction.

BLITZER: Turkey has always been a very good ally of NATO. But there are a lot of people in Europe who don't want Turkey to be a member of the European Union. This is a big problem, and it's one of the reasons why a lot of people in France and presumably in the Netherlands voted against this constitution.

DE HOOP SCHEFFER: Well, that is an element, as I have heard people saying, indeed, and read in European newspapers.

BLITZER: Is it because Turkey is a Muslim country?

DE HOOP SCHEFFER: Well, I don't know why it is exactly. It has to do with integration, immigration and different European countries. But the European Union has agreed that negotiations with Turkey are going to start in the beginning of October. I presume that they'll stick by that -- by that date.

But I can say as NATO secretary-general that Turkey is a very important country. Turkey is a staunch ally, and Turkey is in a geographical position which is very important for NATO and also for the European Union, I would say.

BLITZER: NATO is playing a very important role in Afghanistan right now. Not playing, necessarily, a very important role on the ground in Iraq right now.

Any changes? Because I spoke with the foreign minister of Iraq only yesterday, Hoshyar Zabari. He has a big meeting coming up in Brussels later this month with the EU, the U.S.. Many of the NATO allies will be there.

He needs your support. Is NATO ready to step up to the plate and help Iraq directly with its efforts to become a more stable democracy?

DE HOOP SCHEFFER: We are doing this, Wolf. We are doing this.

I also spoke to Minister Zabari not that long ago. What NATO is doing -- and we're stepping up that effort -- is training Iraqi security forces and equipping the Iraqi security forces.

BLITZER: Not in Iraq?

DE HOOP SCHEFFER: Training in Iraq.

BLITZER: How many NATO troops are in Iraq?

DE HOOP SCHEFFER: We're doing that now in the Green Zone, in the international zone. But we're going to set up a training center just outside Baghdad in the fall, and we're going to train 1,500 leaders a year in Iraq itself.

Some allies do train outside Iraq, as you know. All allies are financing the training mission. So all 26 allies are participating in this training mission, be it inside Iraq, be it outside Iraq, be it through financing the mission, be it through equipment donations to the Iraqi armed forces. So, I mean, NATO is doing what the Iraqi government is asking of NATO, and I think it's a very relevant role we're playing.

BLITZER: We'll leave it right there. Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, thanks very much, the NATO secretary-general.

DE HOOP SCHEFFER: Thanks, Wolf.

(END VIDEOTAPE)

BLITZER: And we spoke here in Washington just a little while ago. When we come back, job growth slowing. Numbers are down as employers cut back on new hires. We'll speak live with the treasury secretary, John Snow, about the latest job numbers out today and the overall state of the U.S. economy, information you need to know when the NEWS FROM CNN continues.

BLITZER: Let's check some other stories "Across America" right now.

An Arizona teenager is in critical condition after being shot during a bizarre police chase. Authorities say the 14-year-old stole a huge earth mover from a construction site in Tucson. Police chased him for about 15 miles before the shooting.

The search is continuing for a missing Alabama teen out of the Caribbean island of Aruba. Eighteen-year-old Natalee Holloway disappeared on the last night of a school trip to the resort island. She was last seen in the early hours of Monday morning.

New numbers out today showing the job market here in the United States not as strong as economists had hoped. Seventy-eight thousand people were hired last month. That's about half of what had been expected. Even so, the unemployment rate dropped to one-tenth of one percent. It now stands at 5.1 percent.

A man constantly crunching all these numbers is John Snow, secretary of the Treasury. He's joining us now live from the Treasury Department.

Mr. Secretary, thanks very much for joining us.

Seventy-eight thousand new jobs last month. The month before, April, 274,000 new jobs.

What happened? Why the downturn? This is the lowest number in, what, almost two years?

JOHN SNOW, TREASURY SECRETARY: Well, Wolf, I wouldn't read too much into one month. Last month, you'll recall the numbers came in way above the forecast. This month they came in somewhat below the forecast. At the same time, the Household Survey numbers came in way at the high end of the forecast, well over 300,000, 370,000 or so.

I wouldn't put much weight on one month's numbers, but I will say I think the trend line continues to be very good for jobs and very good for compensation and good for growth

BLITZER: Nancy Pelosi, the Democratic leader in the House, just issued a statement. I'll go to the computer and read it, just a line from it. She said, "Republicans remain in denial. On Tuesday, the president declared that he is satisfied with our economy and that our economy is strong, but Democrats are not satisfied, and, more importantly, Americans are not satisfied."

Are you satisfied in the shape of the U.S. economy right now?

SNOW: Listen, Wolf, we're never satisfied. There's a lot of work to be done, but I do think we should look at the fact that the American economy is performing well, creating jobs, compensation levels are rising, the economy is growing, enjoying the best growth we've seen basically in two -- in two decades. And all of this is happening in basically a non-inflationary environment.

So the American economy is performing well. We want to see it do even better.

BLITZER: One of the reasons that some analysts suggest the job growth didn't go up as significantly as many had hoped it would was the high energy cost, \$54 a barrel for oil right now. It had been as high as \$57 a barrel.

That's twice what it was only a couple years or so ago. How much of a drag is that on economic growth and job creation in the United States?

SNOW: Well, it's a drag. It's hard to quantify it precisely, but there's no doubt that it's hurting GDP growth. And if you hurt GDP growth, you're hurting -- you're hurting job creation.

But even in the face of these headwinds -- and they're real headwinds from these energy prices, they're way too high and unwelcome -- even in the face of those headwinds, the remarkable thing is that this American economy continues to plow right through and continued to turn in, in good results. But we need an energy policy. We need to take charge of our own energy future, and that's why the energy legislation the president sent forward is so -- is so important.

BLITZER: Interest rates, some economists say, well, there might be some positive silver lining from the sluggish job growth in that it might slow down the increases in interest rates that the Federal Reserve has been doing. What, eight times in recent months they've increased interest rates.

You think this is going to put a hold on interest rates right now?

SNOW: Well, I don't comment on what the Fed might do or might not do. But clearly, their job is to lean against the winds of inflation, and they do -- they do a good job of that.

The long end, the market determined end of the yield curve, is continuing to -- to show low interest rates. And that's clearly good for the housing market. It's clearly good for construction, clearly good for capital spending, and good for the overall performance of the economy.

BLITZER: Are you among those economists, Mr. Secretary, who's worried about a housing bubble? Because the real estate has been going crazy, especially in certain parts of the United States, like Washington, New York, Florida, California. Are you worried that this is going to burst this bubble? SNOW: No, I'm not particularly worried about that. We

don't have a national market in housing. It's not like the market in equities or the market in bonds or the market in pig bellies or something, hog bellies. It's a different kind of market it.

It mainly reflects local conditions. And those markets that are particularly hot are markets that are growing, and where demand, supply conditions are producing that result. I would expect, though, in those markets some slowing of price rises in the future as a natural adjustment process.

BLITZER: One final question before I let you go, Mr. Secretary. Social Security reform, in the face of very strong opposition on the president's proposal for these private accounts, part of the Social Security system. Is he ready to walk away from that and deal with other -- other parts of Social Security reform, given the strong opposition that has emerged, certainly among Democrats, but even some Republicans?

SNOW: Well, we need to fix the system, and we're focused on solvency. The way to fix it that's fair to young people and future generations is to include -- include personal accounts.

The president's committed to that objective, and he's going to continue to press -- press with all the force he can to achieve that objective. And I'm confident that what comes out of Congress ultimately will reflect the president's strong desire to see personal accounts included in the ultimate -- the ultimate solution.

BLITZER: So he's not backing away at all from that?

SNOW: Not one bit.

BLITZER: All right. Mr. Secretary, John Snow, thanks for spending a few moments with us here on CNN. Always appreciate having you on the program.

SNOW: Thanks, Wolf.

BLITZER: We'll take a quick break. When we come back, Operation Lightning so far billed a success by those involved, but has it been a success? Insurgent violence continuing across Iraq. We'll go Baghdad for the latest.

Stay with us.

BLITZER: In Iraq, U.S. troops escaped harm today when car bombs exploded near military convoys patrolling the streets of Baghdad. In one of two such attacks, six Iraqi civilians reportedly were wounded. Casualty figures today appear somewhat lower than yesterday, when nearly 50 people reportedly died in suicide bombings and other attacks.

Let's go straight to Baghdad. CNN's Jennifer Eccleston is standing by with more.

What's the latest, Jennifer?

JENNIFER ECCLESTON, CNN CORRESPONDENT: Well, Wolf, two days of violence demonstrated, and the insurgents still are able to keep up their attacks despite a weeklong security operation here in Baghdad called Operation Lightning, billed now as one of the most aggressive. And according to a senior U.S. military official, billed as the most successful operation by Iraq's new government and also by their new military.

Now, according to Iraqi officials, a number of checkpoints and raids that have brought all roads in and out of Baghdad are now under government control. The action meant to expose insurgents' hideouts and capturing those who have wreaked havoc on this country now for many, many months. And they also are saying that the security in Baghdad has improved 60 percent since the beginning of that offensive.

Now, that senior U.S. military official tells CNN that Operation Lightning is -- the number one priority for Operation Lightning is to stem the tide of vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices, or VBIEDs, and said that Operation Lightning is making headway, and that it is a selection of small-scale operations which is to go on for a period of time, one that is sustained and not a single show of force.

Still, Wolf, the violence continues throughout the capital city. A car bomb exploded as a U.S. military convoy passed its way in western Baghdad, missing the convoy but wounding four Iraqis. And also, in Balad, which is north of Baghdad, late yesterday, a suicide bomber attacked a residence, killing 10 Iraqis and wounding 12 others.

But Wolf, we're beginning to see a clearer picture of the frequencies of such attacks in this country. According to that senior U.S. military official, the average weekly attack hovers around 60 attacks. And from the end of April to the end of May, there were 143 vehicle-borne explosives, IEDs, and suicide bombings -- Wolf.

BLITZER: All right. Jennifer Eccleston reporting for us from Baghdad. Jennifer, thanks very much. Be careful over there.

One other note on Iraq. The impending trial of Saddam Hussein expected now within the next two months.

I put the following question to the Iraqi foreign minister, Hoshyar Zebari: "Will Iraq send teams to its longtime rival, Iran, to gather information to prosecute Saddam Hussein for alleged war crimes dating back to the Iran-Iraq war of the '80s?" Here's his response.

(BEGIN VIDEO CLIP)

HOSHYAR ZEBARI, IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTER: I think we have plenty of evidence. I mean, the mass graves in Iraq, the many violations, the many atrocities Saddam and his entourage have committed in Iraq, every family has suffered from the rule of Saddam Hussein.

So there is no lack of evidence whatsoever. We don't need to go outside to Iran or to Kuwait. But what he has done, I mean, the damage, the pain...

(END VIDEO CLIP)

BLITZER: Earlier in the week, Jalal Talabani, the president of Iraq, had said the trial would begin within two months.

The Iraqi foreign minister, by the way, had quite a few other things to say as well. We'll bring you his comments Sunday on "LATE EDITION," the last word in Sunday talk. That airs Sunday, noon Eastern, 9:00 a.m. Pacific.

Israeli officials say Syria tested three scud missiles last week, including one that broke up over a NATO member country, Turkey. The AP, Associated Press, citing an unnamed Turkish official who says Damascus reassured the Turks the missile had strayed. The other two missiles landed in Syria. Israeli officials say the Syrian tests were likely a show of defiance after Syrian troops were forced to withdraw from Lebanon amid forceful western demands.

When we come back, the jury getting set to go to work in the Michael Jackson case. Closing arguments wrapping up today in California. Will the jury acquit or convict? We'll get some analysis when NEWS FROM CNN continues.

BLITZER: With closing arguments ending in the Michael Jackson trial, the focus shifting to the 12-person jury. Which way will this case go? Let's get a little assessment, what's going on. Our senior legal analyst, Jeffrey Toobin, joining us from outside the court - the courthouse.

What exactly is the status right now based on -- you just emerged from the session, right?

JEFFREY TOOBIN, CNN SR. LEGAL ANALYST: I did seconds ago, Wolf.

We've had an hour and 15 minutes of Thomas Mesereau giving just about the end of his summation, and at that -- when he finishes, probably in about half an hour, then there will be about an hour of rebuttal from the prosecutors. So I think this case will probably go to the jury around noontime, Western time, 3:00 Eastern.

BLITZER: And then what happens? Do they sit in the jury all weekend, or do they take a break?

TOOBIN: No, they're going to take the weekends off. What's interesting is Judge Melville has a rather peculiar schedule. He sits from 8:30 in the morning until 2:30 in the afternoon with no lunch break.

The jury can decide whether they want to abide by that schedule or set some other time starting Monday. So it will be interesting to see whether if they keep this up or do something else.

BLITZER: Yesterday, you gave pretty high marks to both the prosecution and the defense in their summation statements. Are you sticking by that right now?

TOOBIN: I am. And Thomas Mesereau really I thought did a great job this morning with one very specific task. And there are four words that I am sure are seared into the jury's mind, which are con artists, actors and liars.

He over and over again used that this morning to describe the accuser, his mother, and his brother and sister. And what he spent his time this morning doing is taking transcripts from the trial, blowing up individual quotes on a projector, on a screen in the courtroom, and showing rather convincingly to me how all four of them, the accuser, the mother, and the brother and sister, had lied during this trial.

And it was very effective stuff, and he kept saying over and over again, "How can you believe this people? You can't. And if you can't believe them, you simply can't convict Michael Jackson."

It was powerful, I thought.

BLITZER: In your experience as a former prosecutor, now as a legal analyst, Jeff, how significant is the fact that the prosecution will get the last word to the jury in their rebuttal that's coming up later today?

TOOBIN: You know, it's always very helpful, because, you know, you get to answer, you get to answer what is obviously in the jurors' minds. And what good prosecutors do is they always save a couple little bombs to throw in that are un rebuttable.

And one thing I bet we will see during the rebuttal summation is the accuser's videotape which was played at the end of the trial. Very vivid, very moving, and I think that would be a good way for the prosecutors to end.

BLITZER: All right. We'll continue talking about this. Jeff Toobin, we'll watch, together with you. Thanks very much for joining us.

TOOBIN: OK, Wolf.

BLITZER: CNN "LIVE FROM" comes all of our way at the top of the hour. Let's get a little bit of a preview. Kyra Phillips is standing by at the CNN Center -- Kyra.

KYRA PHILLIPS, CNN ANCHOR: Hi, Wolf. A number of stories we're working on.

Specifically, she took a graduation trip to Aruba, but she never showed up at the airport when it was time to go home. We're talking about 18-year-old Natalee Holloway from Birmingham, Alabama. She was celebrating with other high school seniors at a nightclub and last seen getting into a car with three men who say they just dropped her off at the hotel.

We're going to have more on the search for her and the investigation.

Plus, take a look at these pictures. Well, the video and the pictures, they're going to break your heart. The children of war-torn Sudan express their reality through art.

While most children draw animals and flowers, well, these young kids draw pictures of executions and rape. We're going to tell you about a new art exhibit that you will definitely never forget.

Wolf, it's all coming up at the top of the hour.

BLITZER: All right, Kyra. We'll be watching. That sounds heart-wrenching, but we'll want to see it. Kyra Phillips standing by at the top of the hour. Appreciate it.

We'll be right back with a final word, a very personal final word right after this.

BLITZER: Finally, this personal note to it. It seems like only yesterday, but it was actually September 2002, nearly three years ago, when we started doing this weekday, noon Eastern program.

At the time, you might remember we called it "Showdown, Iraq," our daily look at what we already knew was a buildup to the U.S. war against Saddam Hussein. In those early months leading up to the war, we often took our program on the road to Saudi Arabia, Qatar, elsewhere in the Middle East in the region. And then during the war in March and April of 2003, we reported live from Kuwait.

After returning to Washington, we continued this noon Eastern program, but we broadened it out to include all the news of the day and gave it an appropriate new name, NEWS FROM CNN.

Today we wind up a very nice run during this hour. I want to thank our executive producer, Eric Burns, and our entire staff for doing what they do, oh, so well, producing an excellent product, something all of us here at CNN can be very proud of.

Starting Monday -- this is an important note -- CNN will begin simulcasting during this noon Eastern hour CNN International's "YOUR WORLD TODAY." It's an excellent program devoted to all the important news of the day from around the world.

Please check it out. Our colleagues, Zain Verjee, Jim Clancy, will co-anchor that report, noon Eastern, weekdays.

Slavery Lives; Massacre on Tape; Interview With Jaap de Hoop Scheffer CNN June 3, 2005 Friday

I, of course, will continue to anchor "WOLF BLITZER REPORTS," weekdays, 5:00 p.m. Eastern, and "LATE EDITION," the last word in Sunday talk, noon Eastern on Sundays.

At the same time, I'll begin preparing for the launch later this summer of our new three-hour weekday program from here in Washington. It will air from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Eastern. Stay tuned for more exciting information on that new program. Meantime, thanks very much for watching NEWS FROM CNN. I'm Wolf Blitzer in Washington.

LIVE FROM with Kyra Phillips and Tony Harris, they're standing by to come up next.

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Deutsche Presse-Agentur, June 3, 2005

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Deutsche Presse-Agentur

**U.S. removes Pakistan from its human-trafficking **watch list****

**June 3, 2005, Friday**  
12:47:56 Central European Time

**DATELINE:** Islamabad

The United States has removed Pakistan from its **watch list** on human trafficking "in recognition of its efforts to combat trafficking in persons", a U.S. embassy statement said Friday.

U.S. Ambassador Ryan C. Crocker conveyed his government's decision to Pakistan's Interior Minister Aftab Ahmad Khan Shepao Thursday.

The ambassador also delivered to the minister a copy of the **U.S. State Department's** fifth annual **trafficking-in-persons report**, which is due to be released Friday.

Pakistan has already intensified trafficking-related prosecutions, strengthened the implementation of legislation on the prevention and control of human trafficking and established an anti-trafficking unit within its federal investigation agency.

"The U.S. government has helped support these efforts by providing over 100,000 dollars through the International Organization of Migration," the statement said.

Ambassador Crocker commended Pakistan's anti-trafficking efforts during his meeting with Shepao, saying the U.S. looks forward to further cooperation on human-trafficking issues. dpa ig wjh

**SECTION:** Politics**LENGTH:** 185 words**LOAD-DATE:** June 10, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

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IRNA

**June 3, 2005 Friday 9:45 PM EST****Pakistan-Human-Government****BYLINE:** Iran News Agency**LENGTH:** 88 words**DATELINE:** Tehran, June 03Pakistan removed from US **watch list** on

human trade - minister Islamabad, June 3, IRNA Pakistan-US The United States government has removed Pakistan from its **watch list** of human trafficking, an official said.

Pakistan's Interior Minister Aftab Ahmed Sherpao told a news conference here Thursday that **US** Ambassador Ryan Crocker delivered the annual **Trafficking in Person Report** to him.

The US not only removed Pakistan from the **watch list** but also commended the government on its efforts to combat human trafficking, he added.

**LOAD-DATE:** June 4, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire**JOURNAL-CODE:** IRNA

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Saudi Press Agency

**June 3, 2005 Friday 3:50 PM EST****U.S. removes Pakistan from its watch list****BYLINE:** Saudi Press Agency**LENGTH:** 143 words**DATELINE:** Riyadh, June 03

The United States has removed Pakistan from its **watch list** on human trafficking, a Cabinet minister said Friday..

Interior Minister Aftab Khan Sherpao said he had been briefed by U.S. ambassador Ryan C.

Crocker on Thursday and that the news will be officially announced by the **State Department** in its annual **Trafficking in Persons Report** this week..

The department recommends sanctions against countries that fail to combat human trafficking..

Pakistan was included on the list in 2002, but authorities have in recent months taken several steps to crack down on trafficking, according to a report of The Associated Press..

In 2002, Pakistan made human smuggling an offense punishable by up to 10 years in prison, or a fine, and in January, announced it would establish special courts to expedite trials of those suspected of smuggling..

**LOAD-DATE:** June 4, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newswire**JOURNAL-CODE:** SPA

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Sunday Tribune

**May** 01, 2005**News - International - Japan criticised on sexual slavery;****SECTION:** Pg. N18**LENGTH:** 436 words

At least 1,700 women from Latin America and the Caribbean are lured each year into sexual slavery in Japan's huge illicit sex industry, according to a new report.

A team of researchers hired by the Organisation of American States found that most of the women come from Colombia, Bolivia, Brazil, Mexico and Peru.

The team of researchers - led by Phillip Linderman, an expert on-loan from the US state department - was presenting the rapid assessment report to an international seminar on human trafficking, sponsored by Peru's foreign ministry.

The OAS analysis was culled from interviews with presumed victims, Japanese immigration records and crime data.

It is estimated that organised crime organisations like the Yakuza, Japan's secondlargest crime syndicate, exploit tens of thousands of undocumented foreign women in Japan, mostly from other Asian countries, in what Japan's National Police Agency estimates is an \$ 83bn dollar (EUR64bn)-a-year industry, the report says.

Linderman said that until recently, governments on both sides of the Pacific paid little attention to the problem.

The Colombian Embassy in Japan stood out, aggressively working to identify and assist the estimated 4,000 Colombians it believes are human trafficking victims.

But Linderman said the figures in his report probably represent only a percentage of trafficking victims, particularly from other Latin American country's like Peru, which is just starting to tackle the issue.

"The ties between Japan and Peru are larger for historical reasons, for migratory reasons, for all kinds of reasons, than they are between Colombia and Japan, and it's our position right now in the preliminary study that there are many more victims here," he said.

Japan came under mounting international pressure last year after it was downgraded in the **US state department's** annual **Trafficking in Persons Report**. It became the only industrialised, developed nation to be placed on a special **'watch list'** of countries on the verge of falling into the report's lowest category, the OAS study noted.

In response, "the government of Japan announced a new national plan to combat human trafficking in December 2004," among other measures, the OAS report continued.

Chieko Tatsumi of the International organised crime division in Japan's foreign ministry, who went to Lima to attend the seminar, said her government launched an aggressive public advertisement campaign to raise awareness about human trafficking.

"I think the Japanese people are paying more attention to these issues," she said.

**LOAD-DATE:** May 12, 2005**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

OAS present study on human sex trafficking from Latin America to Japan Associated Press International April 29, 2005  
Friday

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Associated Press International

**April** 29, 2005 Friday

## **OAS present study on human sex trafficking from Latin America to Japan**

**BYLINE:** RICK VECCHIO; Associated Press Writer

**SECTION:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**LENGTH:** 642 words

**DATELINE:** LIMA, Peru

At least 1,700 women from Latin America and the Caribbean are lured each year into sexual slavery in Japan's huge illicit sex industry, according to a new report being presented Friday.

A team of researchers hired by the Organization of American States found that most of the women come from Colombia, Bolivia, Brazil, Mexico and Peru.

The team of researchers - led by Phillip Linderman, an expert on loan from the U.S. State Department - was presenting the "Rapid Assessment Report" to an international seminar on human trafficking, sponsored by Peru's Foreign Ministry.

The OAS analysis was culled from interviews with presumed victims, Japanese immigration records and crime data.

It is estimated that crime organizations, like Yakuza, Japan's second-largest crime syndicate, exploit tens of thousands of undocumented foreign women in Japan, mostly from other Asian countries, in what Japan's National Police Agency estimates is a US\$83-billion-a-year industry, the 37-page report said.

Linderman said until recently, governments on both sides of the Pacific paid little attention to the problem.

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But Linderman said the figures in his report probably represent only a percentage of trafficking victims, particularly from other Latin American country's like Peru, which is just starting to tackle the issue.

"The ties between Japan and Peru are larger for historical reasons, for migratory reasons, for all kinds of reasons, than they are between Colombia and Japan, and it's our position right now in the preliminary study that there are many more victims here," he told The Associated Press.

He said a typical trafficking scenario is that of Irene Oblitas, a Peruvian who told her story last year to her country's media. She said that in 1998 she boarded a plane with three Japanese businessmen, who had promised her a job in a plastics factory.

When she arrived, she was raped by all three men and sold to a Yakuza organized crime boss, who branded her across the chest with a 15-centimeter (6-inch) rose tattoo. He forced her to provide sexual services to up to 40 clients a day, she said.

She escaped after eight months with the help of other Peruvian expatriates, according to the Protection Project at Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies in Washington.

"The scenario of Oblitas' case unfortunately seems to be a typical one," Linderman said.

Oblitas' case was not mentioned in the OAS report. Human rights organizations say she later fled to a neighboring South American country, fearing reprisals after she started receiving death threats.

OAS present study on human sex trafficking from Latin America to Japan Associated Press International April 29, 2005  
Friday

Japan came under mounting international pressure last year after it was downgraded in the **U.S. State Department's** annual **Trafficking in Persons Report**. It became the only industrialized, developed nation to be placed on a special "**watch list**" of countries on the verge of falling into the report's lowest category, the OAS study noted.

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Chieko Tatsumi, of the International Organized Crime Division in Japan's Foreign Ministry, who came to Lima to attend the seminar, said her government launched an aggressive public ad campaign to raise awareness about human trafficking.

"I think the Japanese people are paying more attention to these issues," she said.

But she and other Japanese officials disagreed with the OAS report's assertion that sexual trafficking from Latin America and the Caribbean is a much larger problem than the initial figures indicate. The full study will not be complete until later this year.

**LOAD-DATE:** April 30, 2005

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

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Japan Economic Newswire

**September** 14, 2004 Tuesday

## Japan explains position on human trafficking to Philippines

**SECTION:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 264 words**DATELINE:** MANILA, Sept. 14

A Japanese fact-finding team on human trafficking has told Philippine government officials about Japan's policy of stepping up its fight against the crime as many victims come from the Philippines, team members said.

The team of government officials, including those from the Foreign Ministry and National Police Agency, explained to the Philippine side that the Japanese government will submit a bill to the Diet next spring to revise the Penal Code in a bid to crack down on human trafficking, they said in a news conference.

In a meeting with Philippine officials, the delegation said Japan has strengthened measures to protect foreign women seeking help.

But the Japanese officials also conveyed the government's intention to review the current system in which Japan automatically allows women qualified by the Philippine government as singers or dancers to enter the country.

Japan's move to cut the number of such women entering Japan is intended as part of efforts to prevent them from being forced into prostitution, the officials said.

In its annual '**Trafficking in Persons Report**' unveiled June 14, the **U.S. State Department** said, 'Japan is a destination country for Asian, Latin American and Eastern European women and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation.'

It put Japan on a special **watch list** of countries on the verge of falling into the worst of three categories, which includes North Korea, Myanmar, Cuba and Sudan. The report urged Japan to address trafficking crimes and better assist victims.

**LOAD-DATE:** September 15, 2004**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

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Japan Economic Newswire

**August** 27, 2004 Friday

## Trafficking victims to get refuge in domestic-violence shelters

**SECTION:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 394 words**DATELINE:** TOKYO, Aug. 27

The welfare ministry will allow victims of human trafficking to take refuge at private-sector shelters for domestic-violence victims, officials said Friday.

The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare plans to secure a budget for the next fiscal year that will begin in April to ask private-sector shelters and welfare facilities to provide temporary shelters to human trafficking victims, similar to victims of domestic violence under the Anti-Domestic Violence Law.

The move is one of the measures Japan has taken to tackle human trafficking following U.S. criticism of being insufficient in preventing women from being forced into prostitution.

According to the welfare ministry, the measure will be conducted in cooperation with other government entities including the Justice Ministry and the National Police Agency.

The welfare ministry has also advised women's consultation offices nationwide, which will be the front end of the new program, to help the victims first before treating them as illegal immigrants.

In its advisory sent to the consultation offices Aug. 16, the ministry called human trafficking a 'serious abuse of human rights,' and required them to provide dedicated support to the victims including psychological care, the officials said.

Such consultation offices protected a total of six human trafficking victims in fiscal 2003 ended in March, up from two in fiscal 2002 and one in fiscal 2001, ministry officials said.

The number is expected to rise as the authorities will strengthen measures to investigate and criminally pursue human trafficking cases, they said.

Human trafficking victims are believed to have been taken mainly from Asian and Central and South American countries. But most of the cases do not surface as many of the victims are staying in Japan illegally.

In its annual '**Trafficking in Persons Report**' unveiled June 14, the **U.S. State Department** said, 'Japan is a destination country for Asian, Latin American and Eastern European women and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation.'

It put Japan on a special **watch list** of countries on the verge of falling into the worst of three categories, which includes North Korea, Myanmar, Cuba and Sudan. It urged Japan to address trafficking crimes and to provide better assistance for victims.

**LOAD-DATE:** August 27, 2004**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

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Japan Economic Newswire

**August** 26, 2004 Thursday

## Gov't eyes tougher visa screening on foreign dancers, singers

**SECTION:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 407 words**DATELINE:** TOKYO, Aug. 26

The Justice Ministry intends to tighten its visa screening on foreign women entering Japan as dancers and singers to try to prevent crime syndicates from forcing them into prostitution, ministry officials said Thursday.

The move comes amid growing international criticism against Japan's efforts to combat human trafficking, the officials said. Critics call Japan's efforts in the area weak.

In its annual **Trafficking in Person Report** released in June, the **U.S. State Department** put Japan on a special **watch list** of countries that are on the verge of falling into the worst category.

The Justice Ministry is considering revising a ministerial ordinance that serves as a basis for setting standards used for approving a person's status of residence, the officials said, adding concrete measures are being mapped out within the year.

The current ordinance requires entertainment operators that plan to host foreign citizens to have no past record of offenses in terms of Japan's immigration or anti-prostitution laws.

The ministry is also considering setting stricter conditions on the number of employees at entertainment facilities, and the size of stages and performer waiting rooms, the officials said.

At present, the ministry starts launching investigation only if problems are reported regarding the producer or entertainment facilities.

Under the envisioned screening, the ministry would have to check the performers' future workplaces or performance sites for illicit activity as frequently as possible as well as documenting screening prior to entry and for every visa renewal, the officials said.

Should the ministry uncover any prostitution taking place, it will also file a criminal complaint.

In addition to all this, the ministry is expected to propose to its Legislative Council in September revisions to the Penal Code, one of which is to create a new charge for human trafficking.

Activities covered under entertainment visas include performing in concerts, theaters and sporting events, and the duration of stay lasts from three months to one year. Those who come to Japan holding the visas are prohibited from working as bar hostesses.

Ministry statistics show the number of people entering Japan on entertainment visas has been increasing since 1997. Last year, 133,000 people entered Japan under such visas with Filipinos constituting about 60 percent or some 80,000.

**LOAD-DATE:** August 26, 2004**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

Remarks at the National Training Conference on Human Trafficking in Tampa, Florida Public Papers of the Presidents  
July 19, 2004, Monday

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Public Papers of the Presidents

July 19, 2004, Monday

## Remarks at the National Training Conference on Human Trafficking in Tampa, Florida

**LENGTH:** 2707 words

### **HIGHLIGHT:**

The President spoke at 10:48 a.m. at the Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Attorney General John Ashcroft, who introduced the President; Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida; and President Fidel Castro of Cuba.

July 16, 2004

Thanks for the warm welcome. Thanks a lot, John, for your service and your kind introduction.

It's always good to be with Jeb. [Laughter] He's a great brother and a fine Governor. And I know my daughter Barbara, who is traveling with me today, is proud of her Uncle Jeb. Thanks for coming, Barbara. We're glad you're here.

I appreciate you inviting me to this important conference. Human trafficking is one of the worst offenses against human dignity. Our Nation is determined--determined--to fight that crime abroad and at home. And that's what we're here to talk about today. I am especially pleased that Jeb has today signed into law a bill making the sexual trafficking of minors a felony in the State of Florida. I appreciate his leadership.

I want to thank Claude Allen, the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, for joining us today. Hey, Claude. Thank you for coming. Paula Dobriansky, who is the Under Secretary of the Department of State--thank you, Paula, for your dedicated service. Asa Hutchinson is the Under Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security--thanks.

In order to make sure the Federal laws we're going to discuss are enforced, you've got to have good, strong U.S. attorneys around the United States. Paul Perez is a strong U.S. attorney here in Tampa. Paul, thank you for being here. I appreciate your coming.

I want to thank all the State and local folks who are here, the local officials and the local law enforcement officials. I appreciate the faith-based and community organizations who are here. Thanks for your compassion and your love.

I met Lan Pham today when I got to the airport. Where are you, Lan? Oh, there she is. You'd have thought you'd have got a better seat than that. But there she is. [Laughter]

The reason why Lan came out to greet me at Air Force One is she volunteers 5 days a week at Catholic Charities. She is a soldier in the Army of Compassion. She is a reminder that the greatest strength of this country is the heart and souls of our fellow citizens, people who are willing to help people who hurt. Lan is such an example. She is involved with the rescuing of innocent victims that have been brought here and have been harmed. You know, the great strength of America is the fact that we've got millions of our fellow citizens who heed a call to love their neighbor just like they'd like to be loved themselves--on an hourly basis--and Lan is such a person.

I am honored to be with the courageous men and women who are serving on the frontlines in the fight against human trafficking. You've got a tough job, but it's a necessary job. You're hunting down the traffickers. You're serving justice by putting them behind bars. You're liberating captives, and you're helping them recover from years of abuse and trauma. The lives of tens of thousands of innocent women and children depend on your compassion. They depend upon your determination, and they depend upon your daily efforts to rescue them from misery and servitude. You are in a fight against evil, and the American people are grateful for your dedication and service.

Remarks at the National Training Conference on Human Trafficking in Tampa, Florida Public Papers of the Presidents  
July 19, 2004, Monday

Human life is the gift of our Creator, and it should never be for sale. It takes a special kind of depravity to exploit and hurt the most vulnerable members of society. Human traffickers rob children of their innocence; they expose them to the worst of life before they have seen much of life. Traffickers tear families apart. They treat their victims as nothing more than goods and commodities for sale to the highest bidder.

Worldwide, at least 600,000 to 800,000 human beings are trafficked across international borders each year. Of those, it is believed that 80 percent are women and girls and that 70 percent of them were forced into sexual servitude. The United Nations believes that the trafficking of human beings is now the third largest source of money for organized crime, after arms and drugs. We've got a problem; we need to do something about it.

The American Government has a particular duty, because human trafficking is an affront to the defining promise of our country. People come to America hoping for a better life. It is a terrible tragedy when anyone comes here only to be forced into a sweatshop, domestic servitude, pornography, or prostitution. It is estimated that between 14,500 and 17,500 victims of trafficking cross our borders every year. U.S. law enforcement has documented cases of Latvian girls trafficked into sexual slavery in Chicago; or Ukrainian girls trafficked in Los Angeles and Maryland; or Thai, Korean, Malaysian, and Vietnamese girls trafficked in Georgia; or Mexican girls trafficked in California, New Jersey, and here in Florida. Many of the victims are teenagers, some as young as 12 years old. Many victims are beaten. Some are killed. Others die spiritual and emotional deaths, convinced after years of abuse that their lives have no worth. This trade in human beings brings suffering to the innocent and shame to our country, and we will lead the fight against it.

Last year, at the United Nations, I called on other governments to pass laws making such abuse a crime. And many have risen to the challenge. In the past year, 24 nations have enacted new laws to combat trade in human lives. Thirty two are now in the process of drafting or passing such laws. As a result of these efforts, this year nearly 8,000 traffickers were prosecuted worldwide; 2,800 have been convicted.

America is actively helping nations that are willing to engage in this fight. Since taking office, my administration has provided more than \$295 million to support antitrafficking programs in more than 120 countries. We're taking the lead. We are helping other governments to develop laws to combat abuse, to create special law enforcement units to investigate trafficking cases and to rescue victims. We're helping them build emergency shelters and develop long-term rehabilitation and vocational training programs.

At the U.N. last year, I pledged \$50 million to support these efforts in the year 2004. Today the Department of State has announced it has identified the final \$25 million to meet that pledge, funds that will support antitrafficking programs in Brazil and Cambodia and India and Indonesia and Mexico, Moldova, Sierra Leone, and Tanzania. Every nation that fights human trafficking has a friend in the United States. And it's important for them to know that.

America is also confronting nations that profit from or tolerate human trafficking. We are helping nations, and we are confronting nations. Those countries face potential sanctions that include the loss of U.S. military and economic assistance as well as the loss of support from the World Bank and the IMF. And this approach is yielding results.

Last year, after the **Department of State** released the 2003 **Trafficking in Persons Report**, 10 nations avoided sanctions by moving quickly to pass new antitrafficking legislation, to train police officers. They launched domestic information campaigns and established victim protection programs. This year, we have created a Special **Watch List** of 42 problem countries that require scrutiny. Every nation that is complicit in human trafficking can know that the **United States** Government is watching, and there will be consequences if they don't act.

As we fight the trade in human beings abroad, we have also launched an unprecedented domestic effort to deal with this problem at home. Our approach combines aggressive law enforcement action--that means putting people in jail--with compassionate outreach to the victims. Over the past 3 years, we have more than doubled the number of new trafficking investigations underway. Last August, for example, a Federal District Court in New Jersey sentenced 2 women to 17 1/2 years in prison, the maximum time allowable, for bringing 4 Mexican girls into the United States and forcing them into prostitution in Plainfield, New Jersey-- 17 1/2 years of hard time. The message to traffickers is becoming clear: If we catch you, you're going to spend time in jail.

This year, the Department of Justice, under General Ashcroft's lead, successfully prosecuted the largest human trafficking case in U.S. history, convicting the ringleader of a criminal gang that had smuggled more than 200 Vietnamese and Chinese nationals to work as slave laborers in a garment factory on American Samoa.

Remarks at the National Training Conference on Human Trafficking in Tampa, Florida Public Papers of the Presidents  
July 19, 2004, Monday

Since 2001, we've charged 110 traffickers. That's triple the number charged in the previous 3 years. We're beginning to make good, substantial progress. The message is getting out: We're serious, and when we catch you, you'll find out we're serious. We're staying on the hunt.

We're also taking unprecedented action to help the victims, and that's a really important part of the strategy. One of the ways traffickers keep women and girls enslaved is by telling them they will be arrested and deported if they try to run away. We're removing that tool of coercion by treating the victims of trafficking not as illegal aliens but as refugees. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act carried a special class of visas called T-Visas that allowed trafficking victims to remain in the United States and receive the same services and counseling that are provided to refugees.

Often, these women have been terribly brutalized. And when they escape from their nightmare, they should find the protection and generous heart of America. So we're calling upon and rallying the armies of compassion in our society to help. Since taking office, this administration has provided \$35 million in grants to 36 local groups that are helping those who have suffered at the hands of traffickers. We're using Federal monies to help spread compassion.

Today, the Justice Department is awarding 4.5 million to 9 organizations that are running shelters where victims can take refuge while they seek further help. This is a good and proper use of Federal taxpayers' money. Earlier this year, the Department of Health and Human Services helped Covenant House establish a nationwide, toll-free, 24-hour hotline to report incidents of trafficking. Victims and those who know about their plight can call 1-888-373-7888. Spread the word. One speech alone is not going to get the number out. [Laughter]

America will not tolerate slave traders who bring women and children into our country for abuse. We will not tolerate American citizens abusing innocent children abroad. Sex tourism is an estimated billion-dollar-a-year business worldwide. No American should have any part of it. We're working with governments in Southeast Asia to crack down on pedophile sex tourism. And many nations in that region have made substantial progress.

We also face a problem only 90 miles off our shores, where the regime of Fidel Castro has turned Cuba into a major destination for sex tourism. A recent study by the Protection Project at Johns Hopkins University found that Cuba has, quote, "replaced Southeast Asia as a destination for pedophiles and sex tourists." As restrictions on travel to Cuba were eased during the 1990s, the study found an influx of American and Canadian tourists contributed to a sharp increase in child prostitution in Cuba.

The regime in Havana, already one of the worst violators of human rights in the world, is adding to its crimes. The dictator welcomes sex tourism. Here's how he bragged about their industry: "Cuba has the cleanest"--this is his quotes--"Cuba has the cleanest and most educated prostitutes in the world." He said that because sex tourism is a vital source of hard currency to keep his corrupt government afloat. My administration is working toward a comprehensive solution to this problem: The rapid, peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba. We have put a strategy in place to hasten the day when no Cuban child is exploited to finance a failed revolution and every Cuban citizen will live in freedom.

We have taken action to stop American tourists from participating in the sexual abuse of children in Cuba or anywhere else in the world. In 2003, I signed the Protect Act, which allows U.S. law enforcement to prosecute Americans who travel abroad and engage in sex with minors without having to prove prior intent. The Protect Act expands the statute of limitations to the life of the victim for crimes involving the abduction and physical or sexual abuse of children in virtually all cases. The Protect Act imposes strict new penalties, doubling the maximum sentence for U.S. citizens who travel to foreign countries to sexually abuse children. We've also launched information campaigns in foreign countries to inform American travelers of penalties back home for sexually exploiting children abroad.

See, stopping this abuse requires going after the criminal gangs who supply the sexual predators. But we cannot put them out of business until and unless we deal with the problem of demand. And so that's why we are going after the unscrupulous adults who prey on the young and the innocent. Last summer, the Department of Homeland Security launched Operation Predator, a comprehensive effort to protect children from international sex tourists and traffickers and pornography and prostitution rings. That's why Asa Hutchinson is here. This operation has resulted in more than 3,200 arrests nationwide.

I appreciate the good work of all the men and women at every level of government who are working hard to protect women and children and bringing the predators to justice. I told you earlier, it takes hard work. I know it does. There's a lot of people working long hours to enforce the law and therefore make our society a more compassionate place.

All the steps I've outlined today are important, yet the success will depend on the courage of those individuals, people like Anna Rodriguez. Where are you, Anna? Yes, thanks for coming. She is a victim advocate. I think some of you

Remarks at the National Training Conference on Human Trafficking in Tampa, Florida Public Papers of the Presidents  
July 19, 2004, Monday

might have met her earlier today. A few years ago, Anna was working for the Collier County Sheriffs Department when she was called to what appeared to be a routine domestic violence call. Upon arriving at the scene, she noticed a 19-year-old woman named Maria crying quietly in the corner of the apartment. After some coaxing, Maria told Anna Rodriguez her story.

She had been kidnaped from her family in Guatemala. She had been smuggled into the United States. She was being kept as a slave. She was forced to work without pay in the tomato fields of central Florida and then raped at night.

At first, Anna was told by her superiors there was nothing she could do for Maria except turn her case over to the INS. She didn't give up. Anna Rodriguez obviously has a huge heart. Thanks to her persistence, Maria was rescued and her captor is now in prison.

See, Maria became the first adult recipient of the new T-Visa created under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. Because of good law passed, she remains in the U.S. and is working to rebuild her life with the continuing support of her friend Anna Rodriguez.

I hope out of this conference comes a determination to stand behind the Anna Rodriguezes and the thousands of other dedicated police officers, prosecutors, social workers, local officials who stand on the--side by side with the victims of human trafficking every single day, who want to rescue them in the name of a compassionate America.

We're working to make sure you have the support you need in Washington, DC--you've got a Governor who's supporting you here in Florida--because of the struggle against human trafficking is more than a fight against crime, see. This is more than a criminal justice matter. It's a struggle for the lives and dignity of innocent women and children. And that's why all of us must be dedicated to the strategies that will enable us to prevail.

I want to thank you for giving me a chance to come by and talk about this important subject. Again, I thank you for your work of compassion and decency.

God bless.

**LOAD-DATE:** July 23, 2004

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

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Africa News

July 16, 2004 Friday

## **PanAfrica; America Will Not Tolerate Slave Traders, Bush Says**

**BYLINE:** The White House

**LENGTH:** 2681 words

President reaffirms U.S. commitment to fight human trafficking

THE PRESIDENT: Thanks for the warm welcome. Thanks a lot, John, for your service and your kind introduction. It's always good to be with Jeb. He's a great brother and a fine governor. And I know my daughter, Barbara, who is traveling with me today, is proud of her Uncle Jeb. Thanks for coming, Barbara. We're glad you're here.

I appreciate you inviting me to this important conference. Human trafficking is one of the worst offenses against human dignity. Our nation is determined to fight that crime abroad and at home. And that's what we're here to talk about today. I am especially pleased that Jeb has today signed into law a bill making the sexual trafficking of minors a felony in the state of Florida. I appreciate his leadership.

I want to thank Claude Allen, the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services for joining us today. Hey, Claude. Thank you for coming.

Paula Dobriansky, who is the Under Secretary of the Department of State, thank you, Paula, for your dedicated service.

Asa Hutchinson is the Under Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. Thanks.

In order to make sure the federal laws we're going to discuss are enforced, you've got to have good, strong U.S. attorneys around the United States. Paul Perez is a strong U.S. Attorney here in Tampa. Paul, thank you for being here. I appreciate your coming.

I want to thank all the state and local folks who are here, the local officials and the local law enforcement officials. I appreciate the faith-based and community organizations who are here. Thanks for your compassion and your love.

I met Lawn Pham today when I got to the airport. Where are you, Lawn? Oh, there she is. You'd have thought you'd have got a better seat than that. But there she is. The reason why Lawn came out to greet me at Air Force One is she volunteers five days a week at Catholic Charities. She is a soldier in the Army of Compassion. She is a reminder that the greatest strength of this country is the heart and souls of our fellow citizens, people who are willing to help people who hurt. Lawn is such an example. She is involved with the rescuing of innocent victims that have been brought here and have been harmed.

You know, the great strength of America is the fact that we've got millions of our fellow citizens who heed a call to love their neighbor just like they'd like to be loved themselves. And Lawn is such a person.

I am honored to be with the courageous men and women who are serving on the front lines in the fight against human trafficking. You've got a tough job, but it's a necessary job. You're hunting down the traffickers, you're serving justice by putting them behind bars, you're liberating captives, and you're helping them recover from years of abuse and trauma. The lives of tens of thousands of innocent women and children depend on your compassion, they depend upon your determination, and they depend upon your daily efforts to rescue them from misery and servitude. You are in a fight against evil, and the American people are grateful for your dedication and service.

Human life is the gift of our Creator -- and it should never be for sale. It takes a special kind of depravity to exploit and hurt the most vulnerable members of society. Human traffickers rob children of their innocence, they expose them to the

worst of life before they have seen much of life. Traffickers tear families apart. They treat their victims as nothing more than goods and commodities for sale to the highest bidder.

Worldwide, at least 600,000 to 800,000 human beings are trafficked across international borders each year. Of those, it is believed that more than 80 percent are women and girls, and that 70 percent of them were forced into sexual servitude. The United Nations believes that the trafficking of human beings is now the third largest source of money for organized crime, after arms and drugs. We've got a problem; we need to do something about it.

The American government has a particular duty, because human trafficking is an affront to the defining promise of our country. People come to America hoping for a better life. And it is a terrible tragedy when anyone comes here, only to be forced into a sweatshop, domestic servitude, pornography or prostitution. It is estimated that between 14,500 and 17,500 victims of trafficking cross our borders every year. U.S. law enforcement has documented cases of Latvian girls trafficked into sexual slavery in Chicago, or Ukrainian girls trafficked in Los Angeles, and Maryland, or Thai, Korean, Malaysian and Vietnamese girls trafficked in Georgia, or and Mexican girls trafficked in California, New Jersey and here in Florida. Many of the victims are teenagers, some as young as 12 years old. Many victims are beaten. Some are killed. Others die spiritual and emotional deaths, convinced after years of abuse that their lives have no worth. This trade in human beings brings suffering to the innocent and shame to our country, and we will lead the fight against it.

Last year, at the United Nations, I called on other governments to pass laws making such abuse a crime -- and many have risen to the challenge. In the past year, 24 nations have enacted new laws to combat trade in human lives. Thirty-two are now in the process of drafting or passing such laws. As a result of these efforts, last year nearly 8,000 traffickers were prosecuted worldwide, 2,800 have been convicted.

America is actively helping nations that are willing to engage in this fight. Since taking office, my administration has provided more than \$295 million to support anti-trafficking programs in more than 120 countries. We're taking the lead. We are helping other governments to develop laws to combat abuse, to create special law enforcement units to investigate trafficking cases and rescue victims, build emergency shelters, and develop long-term rehabilitation and vocational training programs.

At the U.N. last year, I pledged \$50 million to support these efforts in 2004. Today, the Department of State has announced it has identified the final \$25 million to meet that pledge -- funds that will support anti-trafficking programs in Brazil and Cambodia and India and Indonesia and Mexico, Moldova, Sierra Leone, and Tanzania. Every nation that fights human trafficking has a friend in the United States. And it's important for them to know that.

America is also confronting nations that profit from or tolerate human trafficking. We are helping nations and we are confronting nations. Those countries face potential sanctions that include the loss of U.S. military and economic assistance, as well as the loss of support from the World Bank and the IMF. This approach is yielding results.

Last year, after the **Department of State** released its 2003 **Trafficking in Persons Report**, 10 nations avoided sanctions by moving quickly to pass new anti-trafficking legislation, to train police officers. They launched domestic information campaigns, and established victim protection programs. This year, we have created a "Special **Watch List**" of 42 problem countries that require scrutiny. Every nation that is complicit in human trafficking can know that the **United States** government is watching and there will be consequences if they don't act.

As we fight the trade in human beings abroad, we have also launched an unprecedented domestic effort to deal with this problem at home. Our approach combines aggressive law enforcement action -- that means putting people in jail -- with compassionate outreach to the victims. Over the past three years, we have more than doubled the number of new trafficking investigations underway. Last August, for example, a Federal District Court in New Jersey sentenced two women to 17-and-a-half years in prison -- the maximum time allowable -- for bringing four Mexican girls into the United States and forcing them into prostitution in Plainfield, New Jersey -- 17-and-a-half years of hard time. The message to traffickers is becoming clear: If we catch you, you're going to spend time in jail.

This year, the Department of Justice under General Ashcroft's lead successfully prosecuted the largest human trafficking case in U.S. history, convicting the ringleader of a criminal gang that had smuggled more than 200 Vietnamese and Chinese nationals to work as slave laborers in a garment factory on American Samoa.

Since 2001, we've charged 110 traffickers. That's triple the number charged in the previous three years. We're beginning to make good, substantial progress. The message is getting out: We're serious. And when we catch you, you'll find out we're serious. We're staying on the hunt. We're also taking unprecedented action to help the victims, and that's a really important part of the strategy. One of the ways traffickers keep women and girls enslaved is by telling them they will be

arrested and deported if they try and run away. We're removing that tool of coercion by treating the victims of trafficking not as illegal aliens but as refugees. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act carried a special class of visas called T-Visas that allowed trafficking victims to remain in the United States and receive the same services and counseling that are provided to refugees.

Often, these women have been terribly brutalized. And when they escape from their nightmare, they should find the protection and generous heart of America.

So we're calling upon and rallying the armies of compassion in our society to help. Since taking office, this administration has provided \$35 million in grants to 36 local groups that are helping those who have suffered at the hands of traffickers. We're using federal monies to help spread compassion.

Today, the Justice Department is awarding \$4.5 million to nine organizations that are running shelters where victims can take refuge while they seek further help. This is a good and proper use of federal taxpayers' money. Earlier this year, the Department of Health and Human Services helped Covenant House establish a nationwide, toll-free, 24-hour hotline to report incidents of trafficking. Victims and those who know about their plight can call 1-888-373-7888. Spread the word. One speech alone is not going to get the number out.

America will not tolerate slave traders who bring women and children into our country for abuse. We will not tolerate American citizens abusing innocent children abroad. Sex tourism is an estimated billion dollar a year business worldwide. No American should have any part of it. We're working with governments in Southeast Asia to crack down on pedophile sex tourism -- and many nations in that region have made substantial progress.

We also face a problem only 90 miles off our shores, where the regime of Fidel Castro has turned Cuba into a major destination for sex tourism. A recent study by the Protection Project at Johns Hopkins University found that Cuba has "replaced Southeast Asia as a destination for pedophiles and sex tourists." As restrictions on travel to Cuba were eased during the 1990s, the study found an influx of American and Canadian tourists contributed to a sharp increase in child prostitution in Cuba."

The regime in Havana, already one of the worst violators of human rights in the world, is adding to its crimes. The dictator welcomes sex tourism. Here's how he bragged about the industry. This is his quote, "Cuba has the cleanest and most educated prostitutes in the world." He said that because sex tourism is a vital source of hard currency to keep his corrupt government afloat. My administration is working toward a comprehensive solution of this problem: The rapid, peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba. We have put a strategy in place to hasten the day when no Cuban child is exploited to finance a failed revolution and every Cuban citizen will live in freedom.

We have taken action to stop American tourists from participating in the sexual abuse of children in Cuba or anywhere else in the world. In 2003, I signed the Protect Act, which allows U.S. law enforcement to prosecute Americans who travel abroad and engage in sex with minors without having to prove prior intent. The Protect Act expands the statute of limitations to the life of the victim for crimes involving the abduction and physical or sexual abuse of children in virtually all cases. The Protect Act imposes strict new penalties, doubling the maximum sentence for U.S. citizens who travel to foreign countries to sexually abuse children. We've also launched information campaigns in foreign countries to inform American travelers of penalties back home for sexually exploiting children abroad.

See, stopping this abuse requires going after the criminal gangs who supply the sexual predators. But we cannot put them out of business until and unless we deal with the problem of demand. And so that's why we are going after the unscrupulous adults who prey on the young and the innocent. Last summer the Department of Homeland Security launched Operation Predator, a comprehensive effort to protect children from international sex tourists and traffickers and pornography and prostitution rings. That's why Asa Hutchinson is here. This operation has resulted in more than 3,200 arrests nationwide. I appreciate the good work of all the men and women at every level of government who are working hard to protect women and children and bringing the predators to justice. I told you earlier, it takes hard work. I know it does. There's a lot of people working long hours to enforce the law, and therefore, make our society a more compassionate place.

All the steps I've outlined today are important, yet, the success will depend on the courage of those individuals, people like Anna Rodriguez. Where are you, Anna? Yes, thanks for coming. She is a victim advocate. I think some of you might have met her earlier today. A few years ago, Anna was working for the Collier County Sheriff's Department when she was called to what appeared to be a routine domestic violence call. Upon arriving at the scene, she noticed a 19-year-old woman named Maria crying quietly in the corner of the apartment. After some coaxing, Maria told Anna Rodriguez her story.

She had been kidnaped from her family in Guatemala. She had been smuggled into the United States. She was being kept as a slave. She was forced to work without pay in the tomato fields of central Florida and then raped at night.

At first, Anna was told by her superiors there was nothing she could do for Maria except turn her case over to the INS. She didn't give up. Anna Rodriguez obviously has a huge heart. Thanks to her persistence, Maria was rescued and her captor is now in prison.

See, Maria became the first adult recipient of the new T-Visa created under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. Because a good law passed, she remains in the U.S. and is working to rebuild her life with the continuing support of her friend, Anna Rodriguez.

I hope out of this conference comes a determination to stand behind the Anna Rodriguezes and the thousands of other dedicated police officers, prosecutors, social workers, local officials who stand on the -- side-by-side with the victims of human trafficking every single day, who want to rescue them in the name of a compassionate America.

We're working to make sure you have the support you need in Washington, D.C. -- you've got a governor who's supporting you here in Florida -- because of the struggle against human trafficking is more than a fight against crime, see. This is more than a criminal justice matter. It's a struggle for the lives and dignity of innocent women and children. And that's why all of us must be dedicated to -- to the strategies that will enable us to prevail.

I want to thank you for giving me a chance to come by and talk about this important subject. Again, I thank you for your work of compassion and decency. God bless.

**LOAD-DATE:** July 19, 2004

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REMARKS BY PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH AT THE NATIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING INTRODUCTION BY U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN ASHCROFT LOCATION: TAMPA MARRIOTT WATERSIDE HOTEL AND MARINA, TAMPA, FLORIDA Federal News Service July 16, 2004 Friday

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Federal News Service

July 16, 2004 Friday

## **REMARKS BY PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH AT THE NATIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

### **INTRODUCTION BY U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN ASHCROFT**

#### **LOCATION: TAMPA MARRIOTT WATERSIDE HOTEL AND MARINA, TAMPA, FLORIDA**

**SECTION:** WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING

**LENGTH:** 3048 words

ATTY GEN. ASHCROFT: (Applause.) Thank you very much. Please be seated. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

In the 19th century, President Abraham Lincoln defined a vision of freedom for all, and rightly is called the Great Emancipator. In the 20th century, Presidents Franklin Roosevelt, who defeated Hitler, and Ronald Reagan, who liberated 300 million people in Eastern Europe -- well, they are rightly called Great Liberators. In the 21st century we have a leader who has called us to an understanding of freedom not as America's gift to the world, but as the Almighty's gift to humanity. (Applause.)

President Bush reminds us that in our pursuit of the enemies of freedom we do not seek revenge, we seek justice. From the earliest days of his administration, President Bush has spoken forcefully against the cruel and deplorable slavery of human trafficking. Over the past three and a half years we have heeded that call to freedom and to justice. Under his leadership, we have pursued liberty and justice for those forced into brutal servitude and unthinkable suffering. Where these victims have seen the ugly face of bondage and hate, we are showing them the compassionate face of freedom and justice.

In the battle against tyranny, great leadership stirs hearts and spirits to the cause of liberty. Great leadership encourages the deeds and inspires the sacrifices that build a safer, more peaceful world, a world as it should be, a world as it will be.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my honor to present such a great leader for liberty -- our president, President George W. Bush. (Cheers, applause.)

PRESIDENT BUSH: Thank you all. Thanks for coming. (Applause.)

Thank you all very much. (Applause.) Thanks a lot. (Applause.) Please be seated. Thanks. (Applause.) Yes. (Applause.) Thanks for the warm welcome.

Thanks a lot, John, for your service and your kind introduction.

I -- it's always good to be with Jeb. (Laughter.) He's a great brother and a fine governor. He's a -- (applause).

And I know my daughter, Barbara, who's traveling with me today, is proud of her uncle Jeb. Thanks for coming, Barbara. We're glad you're here. (Applause.)

I appreciate you inviting me to this important conference. Human trafficking is one of the worst offenses against human dignity. Our nation is determined -- determined -- to fight that crime abroad and here at home, and that's what we're here to talk about today.

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH AT THE NATIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING INTRODUCTION BY U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN ASHCROFT LOCATION: TAMPA MARRIOTT WATERSIDE HOTEL AND MARINA, TAMPA, FLORIDA Federal News Service July 16, 2004 Friday

I'm especially pleased that Jeb's signed into law a bill making the sexual trafficking of minors a felony in the state of Florida. I appreciate his leadership. (Applause.)

I want to thank Claude Allen, who's the deputy secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, for joining us today. Hey, Claude, thank you for coming. (Applause.)

Paula Dobriansky, who is the undersecretary of the Department of State. Thank you, Paula, for your dedicated service. (Applause.)

And Asa Hutchinson is the is the undersecretary of the Department of Homeland Security. Thanks. (Applause.)

In order to make sure the federal laws we're going to discuss are enforced, you got to have good, strong U.S. attorneys around the United States. Paul Perez is -- is a strong U.S. attorney here in Tampa. Paul, thank you for being here. I appreciate your coming. (Applause.)

I want to thank all the state and local folks who are here, the local officials and the local law enforcement officials.

I appreciate the faith-based and community organizations who are here. Thanks for your compassion and your love.

I met Lon Fam (ph) today when I got to the airport.

Where are you, Lon (sp)? Oh, there she is. You thought you would get a better seat than that. But anyway -- (laughter). The reason why is -- Lon (sp) came out to greet me at Air Force One is she volunteers five days a week at Catholic Charities. She is a soldier in the army of compassion. She is a reminder that the greatest strength of this country is the heart and souls of our fellow citizens, the people who are willing to help people who hurt. Lon (sp) is such an example. She is involved with the rescuing of innocent victims that have been brought here and have been harmed. You know, the great strength of America is the fact that we've got millions of our fellow citizens who heed a call to love their neighbor just like they'd like to be loved themselves, on an hourly basis. And Lon (sp) is such a person. (Applause.)

I'm honored to be with the courageous men and women who are serving on the front lines in the fight against human trafficking. You've got a tough job, but it's a necessary job. You're hunting down the traffickers. You're serving justice by putting them behind bars. You're liberating captives and you're helping them to recover from years of abuse and trauma.

The lives of tens of thousands of innocent women and children depend on your compassion. They depend upon your determination and they depend upon your daily efforts to rescue them from misery and servitude. You're in a fight against evil, and the American people are grateful for your dedication and service. (Applause.)

Human life is the gift of our creator and it should never be for sale. It takes a special kind of depravity to exploit and hurt the most vulnerable members of society. Human traffickers rob children of their innocence. They expose them to the worst of life before they have seen much of life. Traffickers tear families apart. They treat their victims as nothing more than goods and commodities for sale to the highest bidder.

Worldwide, at least 600,000 to 800,000 human beings are trafficked across international borders each year. Of those, it is believed that 80 percent are women and girls and that 70 percent of them are forced into sexual servitude. BUSH-HUMAN-TRAFFICKING PAGE 6 07/16/2002 .STX

The United Nations believes that trafficking of human beings is now the third-largest source of money for organized crime after arms and drugs. We've got a problem; we need to do something about it. (Applause.)

The American government has a particular duty because human trafficking is an affront to the defining promise of our country. People come to America hoping for a better life. It's a terrible tragedy when anyone comes here only to be forced into a sweatshop, domestic servitude, pornography or prostitution.

It is estimated that between 14,500 and 17,500 victims of trafficking cross our borders every year. U.S. law enforcement has documented cases of Latvian girls trafficked into sexual slavery in Chicago; or Ukrainian girls trafficked in Los Angeles and Maryland; or Thai, Korean, Malaysian and Vietnamese girls trafficked in Georgia; or Mexican girls trafficked in California, New Jersey, and here in Florida.

Many of the victims are teenagers, some as young as 12 years old. Many victims are beaten, some are killed; others die spiritual and emotional deaths, convinced after years of abuse that their lives have no worth. This trade in human beings brings suffering to the innocent and shame to our country, and we will lead the fight against it. (Applause.)

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Last year at the United Nations, I called on other governments to pass laws making such abuse a crime, and many have risen to the challenge. In the past year, 24 nations have enacted new laws to combat trade in human lives; 32 are now in the process of drafting or passing such laws. As a result of these efforts, this year nearly 8,000 traffickers were prosecuted worldwide; 2,800 have been convicted.

America is actively helping nations that are willing to engage in this fight. Since taking office, my administration has provided more than \$295 million to support anti-trafficking programs in more than 120 countries. (Applause.) We are taking the lead. We're helping other governments develop laws to combat abuse, to create special law enforcement units to investigate trafficking cases, and to rescue victims. We're helping them build emergency shelters and develop long-term rehabilitation and vocational training programs.

At the U.N. last year, I pledged \$50 million to support these efforts in the year 2004. Today the Department of State has announced it has identified the final \$25 million to meet that pledge -- (applause) -- funds that will support anti-trafficking programs in Brazil, in Cambodia, in India, Indonesia and Mexico, Moldova, Sierra Leone and Tanzania. Every nation that fights human trafficking has a friend in the United States, and it's important for them to know that. America is confronting nations that profit from or tolerate human trafficking. We're helping nations and we are confronting nations. Those countries face potential sanctions that include the loss of U.S. military and economic assistance, as well as the loss of support from the World Bank and the IMF. And this approach is yielding results.

Last year, after the **Department of State** released the 2003 **Trafficking in Persons report**, 10 nations avoided sanctions by moving quickly to pass new anti-trafficking legislation, to train police officers; they launched domestic information campaigns and established victim protection programs. This year we have created a special **watch list** of 42 problem countries that require scrutiny. Every nation that is complicit in human trafficking can know that the **United States** government is watching and there will be consequences if they don't act.

As we fight the trade in human beings abroad, we have also launched an unprecedented domestic effort to deal with this problem at home. Our approach combines aggressive law enforcement action -- that means putting people in jail -- with compassionate outreach to the victims. (Applause.)

The past three years, we've more than doubled the number of new trafficking investigations under way. Last August, for example, a federal district court in New Jersey sentenced two women to 17 and a half years in prison, the maximum time allowable, for bringing four Mexican girls into the United States and forcing them into prostitution in Plainfield, New Jersey -- 17 and a half years of hard time. The message to traffickers is becoming clear. If we catch you, you're going to spend time in jail. (Applause.)

This year the Department of Justice, under General Ashcroft's lead, successfully prosecuted the largest human-trafficking case in U.S. history, convicting the ringleader of a criminal gang that had smuggled more than 200 Vietnamese and Chinese nationals to work as slave laborers in a garment factory on American Samoa.

Since 2001 we've charged 110 traffickers. That's triple the -- the number charged in the previous three years. We're beginning to make good, substantial progress. The message is getting out. We're serious, and when we catch you, you'll find out we're serious. (Applause.) We're staying on the hunt.

We're also taking unprecedented action to help the victims, and that's really important part of the strategy. One of the ways traffickers keep women and girls enslaved is by telling them they will be arrested and deported if they try to run away. We're removing that tool of coercion by treating the victims of trafficking not as illegal aliens but as refugees. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act carried a special class of visas called T visas that allow trafficking victims to remain in the United States and receive the same services and counseling that are provided to refugees.

Often these women have been terribly brutalized. And when they escape from their nightmare, they should find the protection and generous heart of America. (Applause.)

So we're calling upon and rallying the armies of compassion in our society to help. Since taking office, this administration has provided \$35 million in grants to 36 local groups that are helping those who have suffered at the hands of traffickers. We're using federal monies to help spread compassion.

Today the Justice Department is awarding 4.5 million (dollars) to nine organizations that are running shelters where victims can take refuge while they seek further help. This is a good and proper use of federal taxpayers' money.

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH AT THE NATIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING INTRODUCTION BY U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN ASHCROFT LOCATION: TAMPA MARRIOTT WATERSIDE HOTEL AND MARINA, TAMPA, FLORIDA Federal News Service July 16, 2004 Friday

Earlier this year the Department of Health and Human Services helped Covenant House establish a nationwide, toll-free, 24-hour hotline to report incidents of trafficking. Victims and those who know about their plight can call 1-888-373-7888. Spread the word; one speech alone is not going to get the number out. (Laughter.)

America will not tolerate slave traders who bring women and children into our country for abuse. We will not tolerate American citizens abusing innocent children abroad. Sex tourism is an estimated billion a year --billion-dollar-a-year business worldwide. No American should have any part of it. We are working with governments in Southeast Asia to crack down on pedophile sex tourism, and many nations in that region have made substantial progress.

We also face a problem only 90 miles off our shores, where the regime of Fidel Castro has turned Cuba into a major destination for sex tourism. A recent study by the Protection Project at John (sic) Hopkins University found that Cuba has, quote, "replaced Southeast Asia as a destination for pedophiles and sex tourists." As restrictions on travel to Cuba were eased during the 1990s, the study found an influx of American and Canadian tourists contributed to a sharp increase in child prostitution in Cuba.

The regime in Havana, already one of the worst violators of human rights in the world, is adding to its crimes. Jul 16, 2004 11:28 ET .EOF

The dictator welcomes sex tourism. Here's how he brags about their industry. "Cuba has the cleanest" -- this is his quotes -- "Cuba has the cleanest and most-educated prostitutes in the world." He said that because sex tourism is a vital source of hard currency to keep his corrupt government afloat.

My administration is working toward a comprehensive solution to this problem: the rapid, peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba. (Applause.) We have put a strategy in place to hasten the day when no Cuban child is exploited to finance a failed revolution and every Cuban citizen will live in freedom. (Applause.) We have taken action to stop American tourists from participating in the sexual abuse of children in Cuba or anywhere else in the world. (Scattered applause.)

In 2003 -- in 2003 I signed the PROTECT Act, which allows U.S. law enforcement to prosecute Americans who travel abroad and engage in sex with minors without having to prove prior intent. The PROTECT Act expands the statute (sic) of limitations to the life of the victim for crimes involving the abduction and physical or sexual abuse of children in virtually all cases. The PROTECT Act imposes strict new penalties, doubling the maximum sentence for U.S. citizens who travel to foreign countries to sexually abuse children.

We've also launched information campaigns in foreign countries to inform American travelers of penalties back home for sexually exploiting children abroad. See, stopping this abuse requires going after the criminal gangs who supply the sexual predators, but we cannot put them out of business until and unless we deal with the problem of demand. (Applause.)

So that's why we're going after the unscrupulous adults who prey on the young and the innocent.

Last summer the Department of Homeland Security launched Operation Predator, a comprehensive effort to protect children from international sex tourists and traffickers and pornography and prostitution rings. That's why Asa Hutchinson is here. This operation has resulted in more than 3,200 arrests nationwide. I appreciate the good work of all the men and women at every level of government. We're working hard to protect women and children and bringing the predators to justice.

I told you earlier, it takes hard work; I know it does -- a lot of people working long hours to enforce the law, and therefore, make our society a more compassionate place. All the steps I've outlined today are important. Yet the success will depend on the courage of those individuals -- people like Anna Rodriguez. Where are you Anna? Yeah, thanks for coming. She is a victims' advocate. I think some of you might have met her earlier today.

A few years ago Anna was working for the Collier County Sheriff's Department when she was called to what appeared to be a routine domestic violence call. Upon arriving at the scene she noticed a 19-year-old woman named Maria crying quietly in the corner of the apartment. After some coaxing, Maria told Anna Rodriguez her story. She had been kidnapped from her family in Guatemala. She had been smuggled into the United States. She was being kept as a slave. She was forced to work without pay in the tomato fields of central Florida and then raped at night.

At first Anna was told by her superiors there was nothing she could do for Maria except turn her case over to the INS. She didn't give up. Anna Rodriguez obviously has a huge heart. Thanks to her persistence, Maria was rescued and her captor is now in prison. (Applause.) You see, Maria became the first adult recipient of the new T Visa created under the

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH AT THE NATIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING INTRODUCTION BY U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN ASHCROFT LOCATION: TAMPA MARRIOTT WATERSIDE HOTEL AND MARINA, TAMPA, FLORIDA Federal News Service July 16, 2004 Friday

Trafficking Victims Protection Act. Because of good law passed, she remains in the U.S. and is working to rebuild her life with the continuing support of her friend Anna Rodriguez.

I hope out of this conference comes a determination to stand behind the Anna Rodriguezes and the thousand of other dedicated police officers, prosecutors, social workers, local officials who stand side by side with the victims of human trafficking every single day, who want to rescue them in the name of a compassionate America.

We're working to make sure you have the support you need in Washington, D.C. You've got a governor who's supporting you here in Florida. Because the struggle against human trafficking is more than a fight against crime, see, this is more than a criminal justice matter, it's a struggle for the lives and dignity of innocent women and children. And that's why all of us must be dedicated to the strategies that will enable us to prevail.

I want to thank you for giving me a chance to come by and talk about this important subject. Again, I thank you for your work of compassion and decency. God bless. (Applause.)

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State Department July 16, 2004

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State Department

July 16, 2004

## **America Will Not Tolerate Slave Traders, Bush Says; President reaffirms U.S. commitment to fight human trafficking**

**SECTION:** NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE

**LENGTH:** 3238 words

"America will not tolerate slave traders," President Bush told the National Training Conference on Human Trafficking in Tampa, Florida, July 16.

Condemning human trafficking as "one of the worst offenses against human dignity," Bush stressed that the United States is "determined to fight that crime abroad and at home."

Worldwide, at least 600,000 to 800,000 human beings are trafficked across international borders each year, the president said, adding that most are women and girls who end up being forced into the sex industry.

The president cited U.N. estimates that human trafficking is now the third-largest source of money for organized crime, after arms and drugs.

Bush said 24 nations have enacted new laws to combat trade in human lives since his call to action in a speech before the U.N. General Assembly in September 2003, and 32 are now in the process of drafting or passing such laws.

The United States is "confronting nations that profit from or tolerate human trafficking," Bush said. "Those countries face potential sanctions that include the loss of U.S. military and economic assistance, as well as the loss of support from the World Bank and the IMF (International Monetary Fund)," he added.

Bush said his administration has provided more than \$295 million to support anti-trafficking programs in more than 120 countries.

The United States, Bush said, also has launched "an unprecedented domestic effort to deal with this problem at home."

About 14,500 to 17,500 trafficking victims are smuggled into the United States each year. "The American government has a particular duty, because human trafficking is an affront to the defining promise of our country," Bush said.

Over the past three years, U.S. officials have more than doubled the number of new trafficking investigations under way, the president said.

"Since 2001, we've charged 110 traffickers," he noted. "That's triple the number charged in the previous three years."

The United States also has taken specific steps to help the victims, Bush said, by treating the trafficking victims not as illegal aliens but as refugees. "The Trafficking Victims Protection Act carried a special class of visas called T-Visas that allowed trafficking victims to remain in the United States and receive the same services and counseling that are provided to refugees," the President said.

Other Bush administration initiatives to fight trafficking include providing: \$35 million in grants to 36 local groups who help trafficking victims; \$4.5 million to nine organizations that are running shelters for victims; and a nationwide, toll-free, 24-hour hotline to report incidents of trafficking.

To control the demand side of the equation, Bush signed the Protect Act, which allows U.S. law enforcement to prosecute Americans who travel abroad and engage in sex with minors and imposes strict new penalties. "We are going after the unscrupulous adults who prey on the young and the innocent," Bush said.

Following is the White House transcript of Bush's remarks:

State Department July 16, 2004

(begin text)

THE WHITE HOUSE Office of the Press Secretary

(Tampa, Florida)

For Immediate Release

July 16, 2004

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT

AT THE NATIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel

Tampa, Florida

THE PRESIDENT: Thanks for the warm welcome. Thanks a lot, John, for your service and your kind introduction. It's always good to be with Jeb. He's a great brother and a fine governor. And I know my daughter, Barbara, who is traveling with me today, is proud of her Uncle Jeb. Thanks for coming, Barbara. We're glad you're here.

I appreciate you inviting me to this important conference. Human trafficking is one of the worst offenses against human dignity. Our nation is determined to fight that crime abroad and at home. And that's what we're here to talk about today. I am especially pleased that Jeb has today signed into law a bill making the sexual trafficking of minors a felony in the state of Florida. I appreciate his leadership.

I want to thank Claude Allen, the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services for joining us today. Hey, Claude. Thank you for coming.

Paula Dobriansky, who is the Under Secretary of the Department of State, thank you, Paula, for your dedicated service.

Asa Hutchinson is the Under Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. Thanks.

In order to make sure the federal laws we're going to discuss are enforced, you've got to have good, strong U.S. attorneys around the United States. Paul Perez is a strong U.S. Attorney here in Tampa. Paul, thank you for being here. I appreciate your coming.

I want to thank all the state and local folks who are here, the local officials and the local law enforcement officials. I appreciate the faith-based and community organizations who are here. Thanks for your compassion and your love.

I met Lawn Pham today when I got to the airport. Where are you, Lawn? Oh, there she is. You'd have thought you'd have got a better seat than that. But there she is. The reason why Lawn came out to greet me at Air Force One is she volunteers five days a week at Catholic Charities. She is a soldier in the Army of Compassion. She is a reminder that the greatest strength of this country is the heart and souls of our fellow citizens, people who are willing to help people who hurt. Lawn is such an example. She is involved with the rescuing of innocent victims that have been brought here and have been harmed.

You know, the great strength of America is the fact that we've got millions of our fellow citizens who heed a call to love their neighbor just like they'd like to be loved themselves. And Lawn is such a person.

I am honored to be with the courageous men and women who are serving on the front lines in the fight against human trafficking. You've got a tough job, but it's a necessary job. You're hunting down the traffickers, you're serving justice by putting them behind bars, you're liberating captives, and you're helping them recover from years of abuse and trauma. The lives of tens of thousands of innocent women and children depend on your compassion, they depend upon your determination, and they depend upon your daily efforts to rescue them from misery and servitude. You are in a fight against evil, and the American people are grateful for your dedication and service.

Human life is the gift of our Creator -- and it should never be for sale. It takes a special kind of depravity to exploit and hurt the most vulnerable members of society. Human traffickers rob children of their innocence, they expose them to the worst of life before they have seen much of life. Traffickers tear families apart. They treat their victims as nothing more than goods and commodities for sale to the highest bidder.

Worldwide, at least 600,000 to 800,000 human beings are trafficked across international borders each year. Of those, it is believed that more than 80 percent are women and girls, and that 70 percent of them were forced into sexual servi-

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tude. The United Nations believes that the trafficking of human beings is now the third largest source of money for organized crime, after arms and drugs. We've got a problem; we need to do something about it.

The American government has a particular duty, because human trafficking is an affront to the defining promise of our country. People come to America hoping for a better life. And it is a terrible tragedy when anyone comes here, only to be forced into a sweatshop, domestic servitude, pornography or prostitution. It is estimated that between 14,500 and 17,500 victims of trafficking cross our borders every year. U.S. law enforcement has documented cases of Latvian girls trafficked into sexual slavery in Chicago, or Ukrainian girls trafficked in Los Angeles, and Maryland, or Thai, Korean, Malaysian and Vietnamese girls trafficked in Georgia, or and Mexican girls trafficked in California, New Jersey and here in Florida. Many of the victims are teenagers, some as young as 12 years old. Many victims are beaten. Some are killed. Others die spiritual and emotional deaths, convinced after years of abuse that their lives have no worth. This trade in human beings brings suffering to the innocent and shame to our country, and we will lead the fight against it.

Last year, at the United Nations, I called on other governments to pass laws making such abuse a crime -- and many have risen to the challenge. In the past year, 24 nations have enacted new laws to combat trade in human lives. Thirty-two are now in the process of drafting or passing such laws. As a result of these efforts, last year nearly 8,000 traffickers were prosecuted worldwide, 2,800 have been convicted.

America is actively helping nations that are willing to engage in this fight. Since taking office, my administration has provided more than \$295 million to support anti-trafficking programs in more than 120 countries. We're taking the lead. We are helping other governments to develop laws to combat abuse, to create special law enforcement units to investigate trafficking cases and rescue victims, build emergency shelters, and develop long-term rehabilitation and vocational training programs.

At the U.N. last year, I pledged \$50 million to support these efforts in 2004. Today, the Department of State has announced it has identified the final \$25 million to meet that pledge -- funds that will support anti-trafficking programs in Brazil and Cambodia and India and Indonesia and Mexico, Moldova, Sierra Leone, and Tanzania. Every nation that fights human trafficking has a friend in the United States. And it's important for them to know that.

America is also confronting nations that profit from or tolerate human trafficking. We are helping nations and we are confronting nations. Those countries face potential sanctions that include the loss of U.S. military and economic assistance, as well as the loss of support from the World Bank and the IMF. This approach is yielding results.

Last year, after the **Department of State** released its 2003 **Trafficking in Persons Report**, 10 nations avoided sanctions by moving quickly to pass new anti-trafficking legislation, to train police officers. They launched domestic information campaigns, and established victim protection programs. This year, we have created a "Special **Watch List**" of 42 problem countries that require scrutiny. Every nation that is complicit in human trafficking can know that the **United States** government is watching and there will be consequences if they don't act.

As we fight the trade in human beings abroad, we have also launched an unprecedented domestic effort to deal with this problem at home. Our approach combines aggressive law enforcement action -- that means putting people in jail -- with compassionate outreach to the victims. Over the past three years, we have more than doubled the number of new trafficking investigations underway. Last August, for example, a Federal District Court in New Jersey sentenced two women to 17-and-a-half years in prison -- the maximum time allowable -- for bringing four Mexican girls into the United States and forcing them into prostitution in Plainfield, New Jersey -- 17-and-a-half years of hard time. The message to traffickers is becoming clear: If we catch you, you're going to spend time in jail.

This year, the Department of Justice under General Ashcroft's lead successfully prosecuted the largest human trafficking case in U.S. history, convicting the ringleader of a criminal gang that had smuggled more than 200 Vietnamese and Chinese nationals to work as slave laborers in a garment factory on American Samoa.

Since 2001, we've charged 110 traffickers. That's triple the number charged in the previous three years. We're beginning to make good, substantial progress. The message is getting out: We're serious. And when we catch you, you'll find out we're serious. We're staying on the hunt. We're also taking unprecedented action to help the victims, and that's a really important part of the strategy. One of the ways traffickers keep women and girls enslaved is by telling them they will be arrested and deported if they try and run away. We're removing that tool of coercion by treating the victims of trafficking not as illegal aliens but as refugees. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act carried a special class of visas called T-Visas that allowed trafficking victims to remain in the United States and receive the same services and counseling that are provided to refugees.

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Often, these women have been terribly brutalized. And when they escape from their nightmare, they should find the protection and generous heart of America.

So we're calling upon and rallying the armies of compassion in our society to help. Since taking office, this administration has provided \$35 million in grants to 36 local groups that are helping those who have suffered at the hands of traffickers. We're using federal monies to help spread compassion.

Today, the Justice Department is awarding \$4.5 million to nine organizations that are running shelters where victims can take refuge while they seek further help. This is a good and proper use of federal taxpayers' money. Earlier this year, the Department of Health and Human Services helped Covenant House establish a nationwide, toll-free, 24-hour hotline to report incidents of trafficking. Victims and those who know about their plight can call 1-888-373-7888. Spread the word. One speech alone is not going to get the number out.

America will not tolerate slave traders who bring women and children into our country for abuse. We will not tolerate American citizens abusing innocent children abroad. Sex tourism is an estimated billion dollar a year business worldwide. No American should have any part of it. We're working with governments in Southeast Asia to crack down on pedophile sex tourism -- and many nations in that region have made substantial progress.

We also face a problem only 90 miles off our shores, where the regime of Fidel Castro has turned Cuba into a major destination for sex tourism. A recent study by the Protection Project at Johns Hopkins University found that Cuba has "replaced Southeast Asia as a destination for pedophiles and sex tourists." As restrictions on travel to Cuba were eased during the 1990s, the study found an influx of American and Canadian tourists contributed to a sharp increase in child prostitution in Cuba."

The regime in Havana, already one of the worst violators of human rights in the world, is adding to its crimes. The dictator welcomes sex tourism. Here's how he bragged about the industry. This is his quote, "Cuba has the cleanest and most educated prostitutes in the world." He said that because sex tourism is a vital source of hard currency to keep his corrupt government afloat. My administration is working toward a comprehensive solution of this problem: The rapid, peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba. We have put a strategy in place to hasten the day when no Cuban child is exploited to finance a failed revolution and every Cuban citizen will live in freedom.

We have taken action to stop American tourists from participating in the sexual abuse of children in Cuba or anywhere else in the world. In 2003, I signed the Protect Act, which allows U.S. law enforcement to prosecute Americans who travel abroad and engage in sex with minors without having to prove prior intent. The Protect Act expands the statute of limitations to the life of the victim for crimes involving the abduction and physical or sexual abuse of children in virtually all cases. The Protect Act imposes strict new penalties, doubling the maximum sentence for U.S. citizens who travel to foreign countries to sexually abuse children. We've also launched information campaigns in foreign countries to inform American travelers of penalties back home for sexually exploiting children abroad.

See, stopping this abuse requires going after the criminal gangs who supply the sexual predators. But we cannot put them out of business until and unless we deal with the problem of demand. And so that's why we are going after the unscrupulous adults who prey on the young and the innocent. Last summer the Department of Homeland Security launched Operation Predator, a comprehensive effort to protect children from international sex tourists and traffickers and pornography and prostitution rings. That's why Asa Hutchinson is here. This operation has resulted in more than 3,200 arrests nationwide. I appreciate the good work of all the men and women at every level of government who are working hard to protect women and children and bringing the predators to justice. I told you earlier, it takes hard work. I know it does. There's a lot of people working long hours to enforce the law, and therefore, make our society a more compassionate place.

All the steps I've outlined today are important, yet, the success will depend on the courage of those individuals, people like Anna Rodriguez. Where are you, Anna? Yes, thanks for coming. She is a victim advocate. I think some of you might have met her earlier today. A few years ago, Anna was working for the Collier County Sheriff's Department when she was called to what appeared to be a routine domestic violence call. Upon arriving at the scene, she noticed a 19-year-old woman named Maria crying quietly in the corner of the apartment. After some coaxing, Maria told Anna Rodriguez her story.

She had been kidnaped from her family in Guatemala. She had been smuggled into the United States. She was being kept as a slave. She was forced to work without pay in the tomato fields of central Florida and then raped at night.

State Department July 16, 2004

At first, Anna was told by her superiors there was nothing she could do for Maria except turn her case over to the INS. She didn't give up. Anna Rodriguez obviously has a huge heart. Thanks to her persistence, Maria was rescued and her captor is now in prison.

See, Maria became the first adult recipient of the new T-Visa created under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. Because a good law passed, she remains in the U.S. and is working to rebuild her life with the continuing support of her friend, Anna Rodriguez.

I hope out of this conference comes a determination to stand behind the Anna Rodriguezes and the thousands of other dedicated police officers, prosecutors, social workers, local officials who stand on the -- side-by-side with the victims of human trafficking every single day, who want to rescue them in the name of a compassionate America.

We're working to make sure you have the support you need in Washington, D.C. -- you've got a governor who's supporting you here in Florida -- because of the struggle against human trafficking is more than a fight against crime, see. This is more than a criminal justice matter. It's a struggle for the lives and dignity of innocent women and children. And that's why all of us must be dedicated to -- to the strategies that will enable us to prevail.

I want to thank you for giving me a chance to come by and talk about this important subject. Again, I thank you for your work of compassion and decency. God bless.

(end text)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.)

**LOAD-DATE:** July 19, 2004

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84 of 98 DOCUMENTS

US Fed News

**July** 16, 2004 Friday 7:25 AM EST

## **PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES INITIATIVES TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

**BYLINE:** US Fed News**LENGTH:** 2736 words**DATELINE:** TAMPA, Fla.

The White House released the following speech:

Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel

10:48 A.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Thanks for the warm welcome. Thanks a lot, John, for your service and your kind introduction. It's always good to be with Jeb. (Laughter.) He's a great brother and a fine governor. (Applause.) And I know my daughter, Barbara, who is traveling with me today, is proud of her Uncle Jeb. Thanks for coming, Barbara. We're glad you're here. (Applause.)

I appreciate you inviting me to this important conference. Human trafficking is one of the worst offenses against human dignity. Our nation is determined to fight that crime abroad and at home. And that's what we're here to talk about today. I am especially pleased that Jeb has today signed into law a bill making the sexual trafficking of minors a felony in the state of Florida. I appreciate his leadership. (Applause.)

I want to thank Claude Allen, the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services for joining us today. Hey, Claude. Thank you for coming. (Applause.)

Paula Dobriansky, who is the Under Secretary of the Department of State, thank you, Paula, for your dedicated service. (Applause.)

Asa Hutchinson is the Under Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. Thanks - (applause).

In order to make sure the federal laws we're going to discuss are enforced, you've got to have good, strong U.S. attorneys around the United States. Paul Perez is a strong U.S. Attorney here in Tampa. Paul, thank you for being here. I appreciate your coming. (Applause.)

I want to thank all the state and local folks who are here, the local officials and the local law enforcement officials. I appreciate the faith-based and community organizations who are here. Thanks for your compassion and your love.

I met Lawn Pham today when I got to the airport. Where are you, Lawn? Oh, there she is. You'd have thought you'd have got a better seat than that. But there she is. (Laughter.) The reason why Lawn came out to greet me at Air Force One is she volunteers five days a week at Catholic Charities. She is a soldier in the Army of Compassion. She is a reminder that the greatest strength of this country is the heart and souls of our fellow citizens, people who are willing to help people who hurt. Lawn is such an example. She is involved with the rescuing of innocent victims that have been brought here and have been harmed.

You know, the great strength of America is the fact that we've got millions of our fellow citizens who heed a call to love their neighbor just like they'd like to be loved themselves. And Lawn is such a person. (Applause.)

I am honored to be with the courageous men and women who are serving on the front lines in the fight against human trafficking. You've got a tough job, but it's a necessary job. You're hunting down the traffickers, you're serving justice

by putting them behind bars, you're liberating captives, and you're helping them recover from years of abuse and trauma. The lives of tens of thousands of innocent women and children depend on your compassion, they depend upon your determination, and they depend upon your daily efforts to rescue them from misery and servitude. You are in a fight against evil, and the American people are grateful for your dedication and service. (Applause.)

Human life is the gift of our Creator - and it should never be for sale. (Applause.) It takes a special kind of depravity to exploit and hurt the most vulnerable members of society. Human traffickers rob children of their innocence, they expose them to the worst of life before they have seen much of life. Traffickers tear families apart. They treat their victims as nothing more than goods and commodities for sale to the highest bidder.

Worldwide, at least 600,000 to 800,000 human beings are trafficked across international borders each year. Of those, it is believed that more than 80 percent are women and girls, and that 70 percent of them were forced into sexual servitude. The United Nations believes that the trafficking of human beings is now the third largest source of money for organized crime, after arms and drugs. We've got a problem; we need to do something about it. (Applause.)

The American government has a particular duty, because human trafficking is an affront to the defining promise of our country. People come to America hoping for a better life. And it is a terrible tragedy when anyone comes here, only to be forced into a sweatshop, domestic servitude, pornography or prostitution. It is estimated that between 14,500 and 17,500 victims of trafficking cross our borders every year. U.S. law enforcement has documented cases of Latvian girls trafficked into sexual slavery in Chicago, or Ukrainian girls trafficked in Los Angeles, and Maryland, or Thai, Korean, Malaysian and Vietnamese girls trafficked in Georgia, or and Mexican girls trafficked in California, New Jersey and here in Florida. Many of the victims are teenagers, some as young as 12 years old. Many victims are beaten. Some are killed. Others die spiritual and emotional deaths, convinced after years of abuse that their lives have no worth. This trade in human beings brings suffering to the innocent and shame to our country, and we will lead the fight against it. (Applause.)

Last year, at the United Nations, I called on other governments to pass laws making such abuse a crime - and many have risen to the challenge. In the past year, 24 nations have enacted new laws to combat trade in human lives. Thirty-two are now in the process of drafting or passing such laws. As a result of these efforts, last year nearly 8,000 traffickers were prosecuted worldwide, 2,800 have been convicted.

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At the U.N. last year, I pledged \$50 million to support these efforts in 2004. Today, the Department of State announced it has identified the final \$25 million to meet that pledge - (applause) - funds that will support anti-trafficking programs in Brazil and Cambodia and India and Indonesia and Mexico, Moldova, Sierra Leone, and Tanzania. Every nation that fights human trafficking has a friend in the United States. And it's important for them to know that.

America is also confronting nations that profit from or tolerate human trafficking. We are helping nations and we are confronting nations. Those countries face potential sanctions that include the loss of **U.S.** military and economic assistance, as well as the loss of support from the World Bank and the IMF. This approach is yielding results. Last year, after the **Department of State** released its 2003 **Trafficking in Persons Report**, 10 nations avoided sanctions by moving quickly to pass new anti-trafficking legislation, to train police officers. They launched domestic information campaigns, and established victim protection programs. This year, we have created a "Special **Watch List**" of 42 problem countries that require scrutiny. Every nation that is complicit in human trafficking can know that the **United States** government is watching and there will be consequences if they don't act.

As we fight the trade in human beings abroad, we have also launched an unprecedented domestic effort to deal with this problem at home. Our approach combines aggressive law enforcement action - that means putting people in jail - with compassionate outreach to the victims. (Applause.) Over the past three years, we have more than doubled the number of new trafficking investigations underway. Last August, for example, a Federal District Court in New Jersey sentenced two women to 17-and-a-half years in prison - the maximum time allowable - for bringing four Mexican girls into the United States and forcing them into prostitution in Plainfield, New Jersey - 17-and-a-half years of hard time. The message to traffickers is becoming clear: If we catch you, you're going to spend time in jail. (Applause.)

PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES INITIATIVES TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING US Fed News July 16, 2004  
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This year, the Department of Justice under General Ashcroft's lead successfully prosecuted the largest human trafficking case in U.S. history, convicting the ringleader of a criminal gang that had smuggled more than 200 Vietnamese and Chinese nationals to work as slave laborers in a garment factory on American Samoa.

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We're also taking unprecedented action to help the victims, and that's a really important part of the strategy. One of the ways traffickers keep women and girls enslaved is by telling them they will be arrested and deported if they try and run away. We're removing that tool of coercion by treating the victims of trafficking not as illegal aliens but as refugees. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act carried a special class of visas called T-Visas that allowed trafficking victims to remain in the United States and receive the same services and counseling that are provided to refugees. Often, these women have been terribly brutalized. And when they escape from their nightmare, they should find the protection and generous heart of America. (Applause.)

So we're calling upon and rallying the armies of compassion in our society to help. Since taking office, this administration has provided \$35 million in grants to 36 local groups that are helping those who have suffered at the hands of traffickers. We're using federal monies to help spread compassion.

Today, the Justice Department is awarding \$4.5 million to nine organizations that are running shelters where victims can take refuge while they seek further help. This is a good and proper use of federal taxpayers' money. Earlier this year, the Department of Health and Human Services helped Covenant House establish a nationwide, toll-free, 24-hour hotline to report incidents of trafficking. Victims and those who know about their plight can call 1-888-373-7888. Spread the word. One speech alone is not going to get the number out. (Laughter.)

America will not tolerate slave traders who bring women and children into our country for abuse. We will not tolerate American citizens abusing innocent children abroad. Sex tourism is an estimated billion dollar a year business worldwide. No American should have any part of it. We're working with governments in Southeast Asia to crack down on pedophile sex tourism - and many nations in that region have made substantial progress.

We also face a problem only 90 miles off our shores, where the regime of Fidel Castro has turned Cuba into a major destination for sex tourism. A recent study by the Protection Project at Johns Hopkins University found that Cuba has "replaced Southeast Asia as a destination for pedophiles and sex tourists." As restrictions on travel to Cuba were eased during the 1990s, the study found an influx of American and Canadian tourists contributed to a sharp increase in child prostitution in Cuba."

The regime in Havana, already one of the worst violators of human rights in the world, is adding to its crimes. The dictator welcomes sex tourism. Here's how he bragged about the industry. This is his quote, "Cuba has the cleanest and most educated prostitutes in the world." He said that because sex tourism is a vital source of hard currency to keep his corrupt government afloat. My administration is working toward a comprehensive solution of this problem: The rapid, peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba. (Applause.) We have put a strategy in place to hasten the day when no Cuban child is exploited to finance a failed revolution and every Cuban citizen will live in freedom. (Applause.)

We have taken action to stop American tourists from participating in the sexual abuse of children in Cuba or anywhere else in the world. (Applause.) In 2003, I signed the Protect Act, which allows U.S. law enforcement to prosecute Americans who travel abroad and engage in sex with minors without having to prove prior intent. The Protect Act expands the statute of limitations to the life of the victim for crimes involving the abduction and physical or sexual abuse of children in virtually all cases. The Protect Act imposes strict new penalties, doubling the maximum sentence for U.S. citizens who travel to foreign countries to sexually abuse children. We've also launched information campaigns in foreign countries to inform American travelers of penalties back home for sexually exploiting children abroad.

See, stopping this abuse requires going after the criminal gangs who supply the sexual predators. But we cannot put them out of business until and unless we deal with the problem of demand. (Applause.) And so that's why we are going after the unscrupulous adults who prey on the young and the innocent. Last summer the Department of Homeland Security launched Operation Predator, a comprehensive effort to protect children from international sex tourists and traffickers and pornography and prostitution rings. That's why Asa Hutchinson is here. This operation has resulted in more than 3,200 arrests nationwide. I appreciate the good work of all the men and women at every level of government who are working hard to protect women and children and bringing the predators to justice. I told you earlier, it takes hard work. I

know it does. There's a lot of people working long hours to enforce the law, and therefore, make our society a more compassionate place.

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We're working to make sure you have the support you need in Washington, D.C. - you've got a governor who's supporting you here in Florida - because of the struggle against human trafficking is more than a fight against crime, see. This is more than a criminal justice matter. It's a struggle for the lives and dignity of innocent women and children. And that's why all of us must be dedicated to - to the strategies that will enable us to prevail.

I want to thank you for giving me a chance to come by and talk about this important subject. Again, I thank you for your work of compassion and decency.

God bless. (Applause.)

END 11:13 A.M. EDT

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at [htsyndication@hindustantimes.com](mailto:htsyndication@hindustantimes.com)

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GEORGE W. BUSH DELIVERS REMARKS AT THE NATIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE ON HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING FDCH Political Transcripts July 16, 2004 Friday

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FDCH Political Transcripts

July 16, 2004 Friday

## **GEORGE W. BUSH DELIVERS REMARKS AT THE NATIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

**LENGTH:** 3068 words

**SPEAKER:**

GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

**LOCATION:** TAMPA, FLORIDA

PRESIDENT BUSH DELIVERS REMARKS AT THE NATIONAL TRAINING  
CONFERENCE ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING, TAMPA, FLORIDA

JULY 16, 2004

**SPEAKERS:** GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

JOHN ASHCROFT, U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL

ASHCROFT: In the 19th century, President Abraham Lincoln defined a vision of freedom for all and rightly is called the Great Emancipator.

In the 20th century, Presidents Franklin Roosevelt, who defeated Hitler, and Ronald Reagan, who liberated 300 million people in Eastern Europe, well, they are rightly called great liberators.

In the 21st century, we have a leader who has called us to an understanding of freedom, not as America's gift to the world, but as the Almighty's gift to humanity.

(APPLAUSE)

President Bush reminds us that in our pursuit of the enemies of freedom, we do not seek revenge; we seek justice. From the earliest days of his administration, President Bush has spoken forcefully against the cruel and deplorable slavery of human trafficking.

Over the past three and half years, we have heeded that call to freedom and to justice. Under his leadership, we have pursued liberty and justice for those forced into brutal servitude and unthinkable suffering.

Where these victims have seen the ugly face of bondage and hate, we are showing them the compassionate face of freedom and justice.

In the battle against tyranny, great leadership stirs hearts and spirits to the cause of liberty. Great leadership encourages the deeds and inspires the sacrifices that build a safer, more peaceful world, a world as it should be, a world as it will be.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my honor to present such a great leader for liberty, our president, President George W. Bush.

(APPLAUSE)

BUSH: Thanks for the warm welcome.

GEORGE W. BUSH DELIVERS REMARKS AT THE NATIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE ON HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING FDCH Political Transcripts July 16, 2004 Friday

Thanks a lot, John, for your service and your kind introduction.

It's always good to be with Jeb.

(LAUGHTER)

He's a great brother and a fine governor.

(APPLAUSE)

And I know my daughter Barbara, who's travel with me today, is proud of her Uncle Jeb.

Thanks for coming, Barbara. We're glad you're here.

(APPLAUSE)

I appreciate you inviting me to this important conference. Human trafficking is one of the worst offenses against human dignity. Our nation is determined -- determined -- to fight that crime abroad and here at home, and that's what we're here to talk about today.

I'm especially pleased that Jeb's signed into law a bill making the sexual trafficking of minors a felony in the state of Florida. I appreciate his leadership.

(APPLAUSE)

I want to thank Claude Allen, who's the deputy secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, for joining us today.

Hey, Claude. Thank you for coming.

(APPLAUSE)

Paula Dobriansky is the undersecretary of the Department of State.

Thank you, Paula, for your dedicated service.

(APPLAUSE)

Asa Hutchinson is the undersecretary of the Department of Homeland Security.

Thanks.

(APPLAUSE)

In order to make sure the federal laws we're going to discuss are enforced, you got to have good, strong U.S. attorneys around the United States. Paul Perez is a strong U.S. attorney here in Tampa.

BUSH: Paul, thank you for being here. I appreciate you coming.

(APPLAUSE)

I want to thank all the state and local folks who are here, the local officials and the local law enforcement officials.

I appreciate the faith-based and community organizations who are here. Thanks for your compassion and your love. I met Lan Pham (ph) today, when I got to the airport.

Where are you, Lan (ph)?

Oh, there she is.

You thought you'd have got a better seat than that. But anyway...

(LAUGHTER)

The reason why Lan (ph) came out to greet me at Air Force One is she volunteers five days a week at Catholic Charities. She is a soldier in the army of compassion. She is a reminder that the greatest strength of this country is the heart and souls of our fellow citizens, people who are willing to help people who hurt.

Lan (ph) is such an example. She is involved with the rescuing of innocent victims that have been brought here and have been harmed.

GEORGE W. BUSH DELIVERS REMARKS AT THE NATIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE ON HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING FDCH Political Transcripts July 16, 2004 Friday

You know, the great strength of America is the fact that we've got millions of our fellow citizens who heed a call to love their neighbor just like they'd like to be loved themselves on an hourly basis. And Lan (ph) is such a person.

(APPLAUSE)

I'm honored to be with the courageous men and women who are serving on the front lines in the fight against human trafficking. You've got a tough job, but it's a necessary job. You're hunting down the traffickers. You're serving justice by putting them behind bars. You're liberating captives and you're helping them to recover from years of abuse and trauma.

The lives of tens of thousands of innocent women and children depend on your compassion. They depend upon your determination. And they depend upon your daily efforts to rescue them from misery and servitude.

BUSH: You are in a fight against evil. And the American people are grateful for your dedication and service.

(APPLAUSE)

Human life is the gift of our creator and it should never be for sale. It takes a special kind of depravity to exploit and hurt the most vulnerable members of society. Human traffickers rob children of their innocence. They expose them to the worst of life before they have seen much of life.

Traffickers tear families apart. They treat their victims as nothing more than goods and commodities for sale to the highest bidder.

Worldwide, at least 600,000 to 800,000 human beings are trafficked across international borders each year.

Of those, it is believed that 80 percent are women and girls and that 70 percent of them were forced into sexual servitude.

The United Nations believes that trafficking of human beings is now the third-largest source of money for organized crime, after arms and drugs. We got a problem; we need to do something about it.

(APPLAUSE)

The American government has a particular duty, because human trafficking is an affront to the defining promise of our country. People come to America hoping for a better life. It's a terrible tragedy when anyone comes here, only to be forced into a sweatshop, domestic servitude, pornography or prostitution.

It is estimated that between 14,500 and 17,500 victims of trafficking cross our borders every year. U.S. law enforcement has documented cases of Latvian girls trafficked into sexual slavery in Chicago. Or Ukrainian girls trafficked in Los Angeles and Maryland.

BUSH: Or Thai, Korean, Malaysian and Vietnamese girls trafficked in Georgia. Or Mexican girls trafficked in California, New Jersey and here in Florida. (OFF-MIKE) victims are teenagers, some as young as 12 years old. Many victims are beaten. Some are killed. Others die spiritual and emotional deaths, convinced after years of abuse that their lives have no worth.

This trade in human beings brings suffering to the innocent and shame to our country, and we will lead the fight against it.

(APPLAUSE)

Last year, at the United Nations, I called on other governments to pass laws making such abuse a crime, and many have risen to the challenge. In the past year, 24 nations have enacted new laws to combat trade in human lives. Thirty-two are now in the process of drafting or passing such laws.

As a result of these efforts, this year nearly 8,000 traffickers were prosecuted worldwide; 2,800 have been convicted.

America is actively helping nations that are willing to engage in this fight. Since taking office, my administration has provided more than \$295 million to support anti-trafficking programs in more than 120 countries.

(APPLAUSE)

We are taking the lead. We're helping other governments develop laws to combat abuse, to create special law enforcement units to investigate trafficking cases and to rescue victims.

GEORGE W. BUSH DELIVERS REMARKS AT THE NATIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE ON HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING FDCH Political Transcripts July 16, 2004 Friday

BUSH: We're helping them build emergency shelters and develop long-term rehabilitation and vocational training programs.

At the U.N. last year, I pledged \$50 million to support these efforts in the year 2004. Today, the Department of State has announced it has identified the final \$25 million to meet that pledge.

(APPLAUSE)

Funds that will support anti-trafficking programs in Brazil, in Cambodia, in India, in Indonesia and Mexico, Moldova, Sierra Leone, and Tanzania.

Every nation that fights human trafficking has a friend in the United States, and it's important for them to know that. America is confronting nations that profit from or tolerate human trafficking. We're helping nations and we are confronting nations.

Those countries face potential sanctions that include the loss of U.S. military and economic assistance, as well as the loss of support from the World Bank and the IMF.

And this approach is yielding results. Last year, after the **Department of State** released the 2003 **trafficking in persons report**, 10 nations avoided sanctions by moving quickly to pass new anti- trafficking legislation, to train police officers. They launched domestic information campaigns and established victim-protection programs.

This year we have created a special **watch list** of 42 problem countries that require scrutiny.

BUSH: Every nation that is complicit in human trafficking can know that the United States government is watching, and there will be consequences if they don't act.

As we fight the trade in human beings abroad, we have also launched an unprecedented domestic effort to deal with this problem at home.

Our approach combines aggressive law enforcement action -- that means putting people in jail -- with compassionate outreach to the victims.

(APPLAUSE)

The past three years, we've more than doubled the number of new trafficking investigations under way. Last August, for example, a federal district court in New Jersey sentenced two women to 17 1/2 years in prison, the maximum time allowable, for bringing four Mexican girls into the United States and forcing them into prostitution in Plainfield, New Jersey -- 17 1/2 years of hard time.

The message to traffickers is becoming clear: If we catch you, you're going to spend time in jail.

(APPLAUSE)

This year, the Department of Justice, under General Ashcroft's lead, successfully prosecuted the largest human trafficking case in U.S. history, convicting the ringleader of a criminal gang that had smuggled more than 200 Vietnamese and Chinese nationals to work as slave laborers in a garment factory on American Samoa.

BUSH: Since 2001, we've charged 110 traffickers. That's triple the number charged in the previous three years. We're beginning to make good, substantial progress. The message is getting out: We're serious, and when we catch you, you'll find out we're serious.

We're staying on the hunt.

(APPLAUSE)

We're also taking unprecedented action to help the victims, and that's a really important part of the strategy.

One of the ways traffickers keep women and girls enslaved is by telling them they will be arrested and deported if they try to run away. We're removing that tool of coercion by treating the victims of trafficking not as illegal aliens, but as refugees.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act carried a special class of visas called T visas that allow trafficking victims to remain in the United States, and receive the same services and counseling that are provided to refugees.

GEORGE W. BUSH DELIVERS REMARKS AT THE NATIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE ON HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING FDCH Political Transcripts July 16, 2004 Friday

Often these women have been terribly brutalized. And when they escape from their nightmare, they should find the protection and generous heart of America.

(APPLAUSE)

So we're calling upon and rallying the armies of compassion in our society to help. Since taking office, this administration has provided \$35 million in grants to 36 local groups that are helping those who have suffered at the hands of traffickers. We're using federal monies to help spread compassion.

Today, the Justice Department is awarding \$4.5 million to nine organizations that are running shelters, where victims can take refuge while they seek further help.

BUSH: This is a good and proper use of federal taxpayer's money.

Earlier this year, the Department of Health and Human Services helped Covenant House establish a nationwide, toll-free, 24-hour hotline to report incidents of trafficking. Victims and those who know about their plight can call 1-888-373-7888. Spread the word. One speech alone is not going to get the number out.

America will not tolerate slave traders who bring women and children into our country for abuse. We will not tolerate American citizens abusing innocent children abroad.

Sex tourism is an estimated billion-dollar-a-year business worldwide. No American should have any part of it. We are working with governments in Southeast Asia to crack down on pedophile sex tourism. And many nations in that region have made substantial progress.

We also face a problem only 90 miles off our shores where the regime of Fidel Castro has turned Cuba into a major destination for sex tourism.

A recent study by the Protection Project at Johns Hopkins University found that Cuba has, quote, "replaced Southeast Asia as a destination for pedophiles and sex tourists."

As restrictions on travel to Cuba were eased during the 1990s, the study found an influx of American and Canadian tourists contributed to a sharp increase in child prostitution in Cuba.

The regime in Havana, already one of the worst violators of human rights in the world, is adding to its crimes. The dictator welcomes sex tourism.

BUSH: Here's how he bragged about their industry: "Cuba has the cleanest" -- this is his quotes -- "Cuba has the cleanest and most educated prostitutes in the world."

He said that because sex tourism is a vital source of hard currency to keep his corrupt government afloat.

My administration is working toward a comprehensive solution to this problem: the rapid, peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba.

(APPLAUSE)

We are putting strategy in place to hasten the day when no Cuban child is exploited to finance a failed revolution and every Cuban citizen will live in freedom.

(APPLAUSE)

We have taken action to stop American tourists from participating in the sexual abuse of children in Cuba or anywhere else in the world. In 2003, I signed the Protect Act, which allows U.S. law enforcement to prosecute Americans who travel abroad and engage in sex with minors, without having to prove prior intent.

The Protect Act expands the statute of limitations to the life of the victim for crimes involving the abduction and physical or sexual abuse of children in virtually all cases. The Protect Act imposes strict new penalties, doubling the maximum sentence for U.S. citizens who travel to foreign countries to sexually abuse children.

BUSH: We've also launched information campaigns in foreign countries to inform American travelers of penalties back home for sexually exploiting children abroad.

See, stopping this abuse requires going after the criminal gangs who supply the sexual predators. But we cannot put them out of business until and unless we deal with the problem of demand.

GEORGE W. BUSH DELIVERS REMARKS AT THE NATIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE ON HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING FDCH Political Transcripts July 16, 2004 Friday

(APPLAUSE)

And so that's why we're going after the unscrupulous adults who prey on the young and the innocent.

Last summer the Department of Homeland Security launched Operation Predator, a comprehensive effort to protect children from international sex tourists and traffickers and pornography and prostitution rings. That's why Asa Hutchinson is here.

This operation has resulted in more than 3,200 arrests nationwide.

I appreciate the good work of all of the men and women at every level of government who are working hard to protect women and children and bringing the predators to justice.

I told you earlier it takes hard work. I know it does. There are a lot of people working long hours to enforce the law, and, therefore, make our society a more compassionate place.

All of the steps that I've outlined today are important, yet, the success will depend on the courage of those individuals, people like Anna Rodriguez (ph).

Where are you Anna (ph)? Yes, thank's for coming.

She is a victim advocate. I think some of you might have met her earlier today.

A few years ago, Anna (ph) was working for the Collier County Sheriff's Department when she was called to what appeared to be a routine domestic violence call.

Upon arriving at the scene, she noticed a 19-year-old woman named Maria crying quietly in the corner of the apartment. After some coaxing, Maria told Anna Rodriguez (ph) her story.

She had been kidnapped from her family in Guatemala.

BUSH: She had been smuggled into the United States. She was being kept as a slave. She was forced to work without pay in the tomato fields of central Florida and then raped at night.

At first, Anna (ph) was told by her superiors there was nothing she could do for Maria except turn her case over to the INS. She didn't give up. Anna Rodriguez (ph) obviously has a huge heart. Thanks to her persistence, Maria was rescued and her captor's now in prison.

(APPLAUSE)

See, Maria became the first adult recipient of the new T visa created under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. Because of good law passed, she remains in the U.S. and is working to rebuild her life with the continuing support of her friend, Anna Rodriguez (ph).

I hope out of this conference comes a determination to stand behind the Anna Rodriguezes (ph) and the thousands of other dedicated police officers, prosecutors, social workers, local officials who stand on the side-by-side with the victims of human trafficking every single day, who want to rescue them in the name of a compassionate America.

We're working to make sure you have the support you need in Washington, D.C. You've got a governor who's supporting you here in Florida.

Because the struggle against human trafficking is more than a fight against crime, see, this is more than a criminal justice matter. It's a struggle for the lives and dignity of innocent women and children. And that's why all of us must be dedicated to the strategies that will enable us to prevail.

I want to thank you for giving me a chance to come by and talk about this important subject. Again, I thank you for your work of compassion and decency. God bless.

END

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GEORGE W. BUSH DELIVERS REMARKS AT THE NATIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE ON HUMAN  
TRAFFICKING FDCH Political Transcripts July 16, 2004 Friday

**NOTES:**

[????] - Indicates Speaker Unknown

[--] - Indicates could not make out what was being said.[off mike] - Indicates could not make out what was being said.

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Japan Economic Newswire

**July** 6, 2004 Tuesday

## Japan to compile 'action plan' on human trafficking by year-end

**SECTION:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 802 words**DATELINE:** TOKYO, July 6

The Japanese government will compile an 'action plan' by the end of this year to fight human trafficking after the U.S. State Department downgraded its assessment of Japan's efforts to combat the problem in a recent report, a Cabinet Secretariat official said Tuesday.

The plan will include measures such as submitting a bill to stipulate human trafficking as a crime, ratifying a U.N. protocol and working together with an international body on the matter, and imposing stricter visa rules for Filipinos who enter Japan on 'entertainment' visas.

Although government officials have indicated their discontent with the U.S. report, released June 14, which placed Japan on a special **watch list** for human trafficking, it obviously had an effect in accelerating Japanese efforts.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda told a meeting of senior officials from the Foreign, Justice and welfare ministries as well as the National Police Agency to take prompt steps to deal with the issue.

'Human trafficking is a serious violation of human rights...Regardless of whether the (U.S.) report is right or wrong, we will have to take necessary measures,' Hosoda said at the outset of the meeting, the second of its kind since April.

Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Masahiro Futahashi called for compiling all the measures being considered by the relevant ministries into an action plan as soon as possible during this year, the official said.

According to the data reported to the meeting, police have uncovered at least 24 cases of human trafficking during the first half of this year, involving 13 suspects, including five brokers, and 16 female victims consisting of 15 Thais and one Colombian.

The police highlighted a case in which an American manager of a strip club in Okinawa hired a Colombian woman staying in Japan illegally to dance in strip shows and work as a prostitute and another in which a Thai woman brokered Thai women to a pub for prostitution purposes, the official said.

The latest tally compares to 51 cases involving 41 suspects, including eight brokers, and 83 female victims, including 43 Colombians, 21 Thais and 12 women from Taiwan, in 2003, the official added.

Of the victims, three Filipinos and three Thai women were sheltered at prefectural women's shelters during fiscal 2003, which ended in March this year, up from one in fiscal 2001 and two in fiscal 2002.

According to immigration authorities, over 100,000 women were overstaying their visas as of Jan. 1. Of these, 20,000 were Filipinos and 8,000 were Thais. Human rights groups and nongovernmental organizations say many of these women may be the victims of trafficking.

In order to deal with the problem, the Justice Ministry is drafting a bill to revise the Penal Code and enact a new law to submit it to the next ordinary Diet session convening in January, the official said.

Japan has dealt with cases of human trafficking, such as for sexual exploitation and forced labor, under existing laws, but they may fall short in dealing with cases aimed at selling internal organs, he said.

Immigration authorities are considering relaxing rules on requiring special permission for illegal residents to temporarily stay in Japan in cases involving trafficking victims.

Japan to compile 'action plan' on human trafficking by year-end Japan Economic Newswire July 6, 2004 Tuesday

The Health, Welfare and Labor Ministry will consider tie-ups with private-sector shelters to help expand the capacities of the prefectural-based shelters.

The Foreign Ministry will seek the ratification of the U.N. convention against transnational organized crime protocol on trafficking in persons, and allocations in the fiscal 2005 budget to join hands with the International Organization for Migration to repatriate victims.

Currently, Japan does not have a law that directly bans human trafficking, but instead employs the Penal Code and a variety of laws, including immigration and anti-prostitution legislation, to carry out trafficking-related prosecutions.

As a result, enforcement methods are limited to people such as low-end brokers or the victims' employers.

In the '**Trafficking in Persons' report, the U.S. State Department** pressed Japan to boost its efforts to combat human trafficking, including increased investigations, prosecutions and convictions of trafficking crimes, and to provide better assistance for victims.

'Japan is a destination country for Asian, Latin American and Eastern European women and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation,' the report said.

The report put Japan on a newly created **watch list**, citing the lack of a comprehensive law against human trafficking and victim protection efforts. The category contains 42 countries that are in danger of falling into the worst category in next year's report.

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The Japan Times

**June** 26, 2004, Saturday

## Cooperation key to war on human trafficking

**LENGTH:** 284 words

By HIROSHI MATSUBARA, Staff writer

A surge in human trafficking has become an urgent global problem that can only be curbed through international cooperation, experts said Friday.

The call came from participants of a two-day international meeting on human trafficking that was held in Tokyo earlier this week.

Speaking at a news conference at the Foreign Correspondents' Club in Japan, they urged Japan to take effective steps to crack down on the complex problem through better cooperation with various government bodies and nongovernmental organizations. Japan was placed on a "special **watch**" list in the **U.S. State Department's** annual **report on human trafficking** earlier this month.

One of the speakers, Saisuree Chutikul, a former Cabinet minister of Thailand and a member of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, said Japan is a major destination of trafficking victims - mainly women - from Thailand and other parts of Southeast Asia.

She urged Tokyo to act on the "three Ps": prevent trafficking, protect victims and prosecute traffickers or exploiters.

Mu Sochua, Cambodia's minister for women's and veterans' affairs, said her country's efforts to recover from its war-torn past have been greatly obstructed by the trafficking of its nationals.

She said such crimes not only violate the rights of victims but also destroy "the culture, economy, and the whole nation."

Speaking at the symposium, former Justice Minister Mayumi Moriyama expressed her dissatisfaction with the U.S. report, which criticized Japan for failing to create a comprehensive law to curb human trafficking. She said the report failed to properly take into account Japan's past efforts.

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The Japan Times

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Govt must act on human trafficking The Daily Yomiuri (Tokyo) June 25, 2004 Friday

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The Daily Yomiuri (Tokyo)

**June** 25, 2004 Friday

## Govt must act on human trafficking

**BYLINE:** Jake Adelstein Yomiuri Shimbun Staff Writer

**SOURCE:** Yomiuri

**SECTION:** Pg. 4

**LENGTH:** 866 words

Japan, which was the venue for a two-day international meeting on human trafficking that closed in Tokyo on Thursday, was itself listed in the **U.S. State Department's** annual **Trafficking in Persons Report** released on June 14 as a "special watch" country for not fully complying with the minimum standards for the elimination of human trafficking.

The symposium, "Strategies for Human Trafficking in Asia," was organized by the U.S. Embassy, the nongovernmental organization Vital Voices, and the International Labor Organization and was attended by, among others, officials of the National Police Agency and the Justice Ministry.

In his opening remarks, U.S. Ambassador Howard Baker said, "I hope the ideas that come out this conference help victims all over the world."

One such victim was Sirikit (not her real name), whose experiences in Japan were documented in the State Department's report.

Born into a poor community in rural Thailand, at 15 Sirikit found a foreign labor agent in Bangkok who advertised well-paid waitressing jobs in Japan. But on her arrival in Japan, she was taken to a karaoke bar, where the owner raped her, subjected her to a blood test and then bought her.

"I felt like a piece of flesh being inspected," Sirikit recounted in the report. She was told that she had to pay off a large debt for her travel expenses and she was warned that girls who tried to escape were brought back by the yakuza, severely beaten, and their debts doubled. The only way to pay off the debt, she was told, was to service as many clients as possible as quickly as possible.

The report described in great detail the plight of Sirikit and other human-trafficking victims in Japan, focusing a harsh spotlight on the reality of the trafficking problem in this country.

It states quite critically that "the Japanese government must begin to fully employ its resources to address this serious human rights crime within its borders." And while crediting Japanese authorities for the arrest of 41 individuals involved in trafficking, last year, the report does not mention whether this was a significant number.

The **watch list** targets countries in which more than 100 hundred reports of human trafficking have been collected. However, the rating attached to countries is based on the judgment of the State Department alone.

Former Justice Minister Mayumi Moriyama touched upon this in her remarks. Expressing her displeasure, she noted that while the Japanese authorities had increased their cooperation and are preparing legislation, the United States had not properly noted these efforts.

Why did the United States, which is so sensitive to human rights issues, make Japan such a target of criticism in the report?

In all likelihood it is because Japan has neglected to create a legal framework for dealing with this modern form of slavery.

Govt must act on human trafficking The Daily Yomiuri (Tokyo) June 25, 2004 Friday

The report states: "Japan lacks a comprehensive law against trafficking...The government currently employs the penal code and a variety of labor, immigration, and child welfare/protection statutes to carry out limited trafficking-related prosecutions. These laws provide for up to 10-year prison terms and steep fines, but actual penalties have been far less severe."

Japan's failure to protect the women trafficked to its shores also is a major bone of contention. "Over the past year, the Japanese Government offered victims of sexual slavery little in the way of legal advice or psychological or financial support. Generally, victims were deported as illegal aliens," the report states.

The report is very unforgiving in regard to Japan's lack of action in trafficking matters.

Govt to implement measures

The Yomiuri Shimbun

The government decided Wednesday to implement a number of measures to eradicate human trafficking, including formulating a new law, tightening existing rules and making penalties for traffickers more severe.

The specifics of the new measures are to be hammered out by a forum to reinforce cooperation between four ministries and agencies on preventing women being trafficked into Japan from abroad and forced to work in the sex industry, which opens July 6.

The forum will be attended by bureau chief-class officials from the National Police Agency, the Justice Ministry, the Foreign Ministry and the Health, Labor and Welfare Ministry.

The government's decision is a response to mounting international criticism of how Japan is combating people trafficking following the publication of the **U.S. State Department's** annual **Trafficking in Persons Report** on June 14.

The report put Japan on a special **watch list** of countries on the verge of falling into the worst of three categories of countries involved in the trade, and urged Tokyo to do more to prosecute traffickers and help victims.

The government decided drastic new measures were necessary following criticism from legal circles that there currently is no law that comprehensively outlaws the trade and penalizes traffickers, and that existing punishments are relatively light given the seriousness of the crime.

People trafficking is prohibited under the Prostitution Prevention Law and the Penal Code.

**LOAD-DATE:** June 24, 2004

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Japan Economic Newswire

**June** 25, 2004 Friday

## U.N. expert on human trafficking slams Japan's immigration controls

**SECTION:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 360 words**DATELINE:** TOKYO, June 25

A U.N. expert on the crime of human trafficking for the purpose of prostitution and forced labor expressed concern Friday over Japan's immigration controls, saying they have allowed many Thai women to easily enter the country with fake passports. 'Japan is one destination country for a lot of (trafficked) Thai women,' Saisuree Chutikul, U.N. delegate for the National Commission on Women's Affairs of Thailand, told reporters in Tokyo.

These women come to Japan having been tricked with fictitious offers of 'good work' or 'good salary,' but they are forced to do something else, mostly prostitution, said Saisuree, who is from Thailand.

She said about 6,000 Thai women are in Japan and many of them have been forced into such work, but only about 60 women annually are able to seek help at the Thai Embassy in Tokyo.

'The Thai government and Japanese government have to work together (to resolve the problem),' Saisuree said.

She said Thai women have been able to easily pass through immigration controls at Japan's airports using fake Singaporean or Hong Kong passports, even though they might not speak English or Chinese.

Saisuree and three other experts were speaking at Tokyo's Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan after participating in an international conference held Wednesday and Thursday in the capital titled 'Strategies for Combating Human Trafficking in Asia.'

The conference was sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, the International Labor Organization, which is a U.N. agency, and Vital Voices Global Partnership, an international nongovernmental organization.

In its annual '**Trafficking in Persons Report**' unveiled June 14, the **U.S. State Department** said, 'Japan is a destination country for Asian, Latin American and Eastern European women and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation.'

It put Japan on a special **watch list** of countries on the verge of falling into the worst of three categories, which include such countries as North Korea, Myanmar, Cuba and Sudan. It urged Japan to address trafficking crimes and to provide better assistance for victims.

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Federal Document Clearing House Congressional Testimony

**June** 24, 2004 Thursday

## TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

### SECTION: CAPITOL HILL HEARING TESTIMONY

**LENGTH:** 1944 words

Statement of Holly Burkhalter, U.S. Policy Director Physicians for Human Rights

Committee on House International Relations Subcommittee on International Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Human Rights

June 24, 2004

Thank you very much for holding this important hearing, Chairman Gallegly and for inviting me to testify. My name is Holly Burkhalter, and I am **U.S.** policy Director of Physicians for Human Rights. I am honored to be here. At today's hearing, I would like to review some of the health consequences of sex trafficking, offer some comments on the newly-released **State Department Trafficking in Persons report**, and also provide you with some of PHR's findings from a recent mission to investigate the health consequences of migration and trafficking for Burmese refugees and women and girls from Thailand's ethnic hill tribes.

As you may recall from my testimony before this Committee a year ago, Physicians for Human Rights and our Health Action AIDS Campaign is particularly concerned about the crimes of sex trafficking and the sexual exploitation of children and have worked to bring attention to these issues in the context of the international HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Exposure to HIV/AIDS compounds the crimes of abduction, rape and inhumane work and can make them a death sentence. As I mentioned last year, violence is common in commercial sex and particularly prevalent when women or children are forcibly subjected to sex against their will. Injuries and abrasions sustained during sexual contact heighten physical vulnerability to AIDS transmission.<sup>1</sup> And young girls' physically immature bodies are highly vulnerable to injuries, significantly heightening their risk of infection. Moreover, having other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) heightens the risk of contracting HIV by up to a factor of 10.2 STDs are more common among women than men, and women often contract STDs at a younger age than men.<sup>3</sup>

HIV/AIDS researchers and epidemiologists have found that women and children in the commercial sex industry are the most vulnerable to HIV exposure during their first six months, the time in which the victims have the least ability to protect themselves and are thought to be safe because of their youth and/or inexperience.<sup>4</sup>

Countries with large commercial sex industries and a significant trafficking problem have very high rates of HIV infection. In India, for example, thirty to 60 percent of prostitutes and up to 15 percent of all truck drivers are infected with HIV/AIDS, according to a study released last year by the National Intelligence Council.<sup>5</sup> Research into HIV/AIDS and the sex industry in Mumbai indicated that 70% of the sex workers in Mumbai are HIV-positive.<sup>6</sup> A study in Surat found that HIV prevalence among sex workers had increased from 17% in 1992 to 43% in 2000.<sup>7</sup> A 2002 study on the relationship between trafficking and HIV in Nepal indicated rates of HIV infection were many times higher among Nepali women and girls trafficked to India than for urban sex workers in Nepal.<sup>8</sup>

A January 2004 study of the health consequences of trafficking into indentured servitude or the sex trade in Europe noted that "Trafficking often has a profound impact on the health and well-being of women. The forms of abuse and risks that women experience include physical, sexual and psychological abuse, the forced or coerced use of drugs and alcohol, social restrictions and manipulation, economic exploitation and debt bondage, legal insecurity, abusive working and living conditions and a range of risks associated with being a migrant and/or marginalized."<sup>9</sup>

Of 28 trafficking victims whose experience and health was studied, nearly half the women had been confined, raped or beaten during the travel and transit stage of the trafficking process and that nearly all had been "intentionally hurt" since

leaving home. All the women reported having been sexually abused and coerced into involuntary sexual acts, including rape, forced anal and oral sex, forced unprotected sex, and gang rape. Six of thirteen women reported having unprotected anal sex. (HIV is 30 times more likely to be transmitted through anal intercourse than by vaginal sexual intercourse.) Most women who worked as sex workers reported having 10 to 25 clients per night, while some had as many as 40 to 50 per night.<sup>10</sup>

A recent investigation by Physicians for Human Rights (which will publish its study in July 2004) on migration, trafficking and health of Burmese refugees and women and girls from ethnic hill tribes in Thailand found that women and girls trafficked into factories and domestic service are also exposed to HIV because of rape by traffickers, factory bosses, and employers. Trafficking victims in such industries, as in the sex industry, lack language skills, are subjected to abuse and discrimination, and are denied access to health services. As trafficking victims they are at the mercy of employers and have no access to the protection of local police, who are often complicit in trafficking. Physicians for Human Rights' investigators found that discrimination against both women and girls of Thai minority ethnicity and against Burmese migrants and refugees are a factor in their vulnerability to being trafficked across borders or internally into dangerous, unhealthy, and abusive labor conditions, including Thailand's billion dollar commercial sex industry.

As was the case with the women interviewed in the European study cited above, women and girls trafficked into Thailand's commercial sex industry are uniquely vulnerable to violence and exposure to disease, including HIV/AIDS. Thailand's much-praised HIV/AIDS prevention initiatives in the early 1990's which contributed to a sharp reduction in AIDS prevalence within the commercial sex industry appears not to have reached those most vulnerable within it. Health researchers have noted that HIV rates and risks are higher for Burmese sex workers/trafficking victims than for their Thai counterparts. Epidemiologists have reported that the highest rates of HIV infection have been found at Burma's cross border points with Thailand. Those of Shan ethnicity appear to be particularly at risk. In a prevalence assessment done by the Johns Hopkins University, the HIV rates for Shan women were 3.0% overall and 9% for men, among the highest reported in Asia for any ethnic group.

It is a cruel irony that many of the Burmese women and girls who are trafficked into brothels in northern Thailand were fleeing a regime where rape and sexual violence are systemic. Shan and Karen women's organizations have documented thousands of rapes by the Burmese military, which the organization Refugees International has described as using rape of ethnic Karen, Mon, Karenni, and Tavoyan women to control and terrorize those ethnic populations. The Burmese military regime has reportedly forcibly displaced the populations of more than 2,500 villages, displacing more than 600,000 people. More than half of these were forced into government-controlled "relocation centers," while the remainder are in hiding or have fled to Thailand.

Given the extraordinary violence that many Burmese have fled, the Thai government's recent campaign of wholesale deportation of Burmese is itself deeply problematic. In 2003, the Thai government deported up to 10,000 Burmese people each month "informally," and upwards of 400 per month through formal deportation proceedings to military-run holding centers in Burma. This policy of refolement is an extremely serious violation of international law and is a decidedly inappropriate response to the crime of trafficking.

I would like to make a few brief comments about the Thailand report in the newly-released **State Department report on Trafficking in Persons (TIP Report)**. First, I wish to thank Director John Miller and his staff for their hard work in writing this year's **TIP report**. I also wish to commend him for his many efforts that are not as visible as the report but which have nonetheless done a great deal to promote an end to trafficking, provide assistance to victims, and promote accountability for traffickers.

I am particularly pleased that Director Miller took advantage of the new diplomatic tools provided to the executive branch by Congress when it reauthorized the Trafficking Victims Protection Act last year. The new Act's heavier emphasis on law enforcement and tangible outcomes and the creation of the **Watch List** add to the diplomatic tool kit and heighten the prospect that governments that fail to take appropriate steps will be subjected to economic pressure as well in the form of reduced foreign assistance. It took no little political courage for the State Department to place allies on the **Watch List**.

I note with gratitude that Thailand, the country with which I am most familiar, has been placed on the 2004 **Watch List**, which means that the TIP office and **U.S.** Embassy officials in Bangkok will prepare and release a mid-year report on Thailand. The **TIP report** notes that Thailand's inclusion in the '04 **Watch List** is "due to the government's failure to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat severe forms of trafficking in one area: the protection of Cambodian Trafficking victims, particularly those exploited in street work."

Physicians for Human Rights welcomes attention to this particular problem but encourages the TIP office, the U.S. Ambassador to Bangkok, and other U.S. government officials not to limit their scrutiny to this aspect of trafficking alone. Thailand has significant trafficking problems that are not fully reflected in the TIP narrative.

The Thai commercial sex industry includes thousands of women and girls who have either been trafficked from Burma or have been internally trafficked. In northern Thailand nearly all women and girls in the commercial sex industry are Burmese or ethnic minorities lacking Thai citizenship. The TIP report notes that a single policeman has been prosecuted for complicity in trafficking. The mid-year report is an opportunity to indicate that a much more serious effort must be made in the area of accountability and police professionalism.

I would urge that trafficking in northern Thailand, and particularly the exploitation of Burmese and hill tribe women and girls in that area, be the subject of the mid-year review, and that the arrest, prosecution, and conviction of those involved in the trade be a key indicator of progress. PHR urges that the mid-year review be a comprehensive evaluation of the Thai government's national anti-trafficking plan, including the implementation of the 1999 Memorandum of Understanding.

I would like to draw your attention to one particular recommendation that Physicians for Human Rights will be promoting at the upcoming XV International Conference on HIV/AIDS to be held in Bangkok next month. Thailand has not extended citizenship to virtually half of its indigenous hill tribe minority people, many of whom have lived in Thailand for generations. This lack of citizenship contributes to impoverishment, discrimination, and lack of education and health care. Anti-trafficking programs supported by the US and other donors have reduced the vulnerability of hill tribe girls and women, but the gross corruption among Thai authorities responsible for addressing citizenship perpetuates their second-class citizenship. Addressing this issue and providing appropriate policing of traffickers and brothel owners who exploit hill tribe women and girls are important anti-trafficking initiatives that the U.S. should monitor in the context of the mid-year report on Thailand.

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**COMMITTEE:** HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**SUBCOMMITTEE:** INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, NONPROLIFERATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS

**TESTIMONY-BY:** HOLLY BURKHALTER, U.S. POLICY DIRECTOR

**AFFILIATION:** PHYSICIANS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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Japan Economic Newswire

June 23, 2004 Wednesday

## Tokyo meeting on human trafficking opens

**SECTION:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 407 words**DATELINE:** TOKYO, June 23

By Shinya Ajima

A two-day international meeting on human trafficking in Asia began Wednesday in Tokyo, with Japan having come under fire from the United States last week for not doing enough to combat the nefarious trade.

The two-day conference, 'Strategies for Combating Human Trafficking in Asia,' held at the United Nations University in Tokyo, was hosted by the U.S. Embassy in Japan, the International Labor Organization's Tokyo Office, and Vital Voices Global Partnership, a U.S. nonprofit organization.

'This conference in Tokyo is...example of the pledge of the United States to lead this support in the fight against the crime of human trafficking,' U.S. Ambassador to Japan Howard Baker said in the opening ceremony.

'As many of you may know, the crime of trafficking men, women and children for the purpose of prostitution and forced labor is of concern to both President George W. Bush and to First Lady Laura Bush,' Baker said.

In closed sessions of the conference, experts will discuss ways to thwart various forms of human trafficking, including forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation.

The participants are also aiming at increasing the level of cooperation between governments and nongovernment entities in Asia to combat human trafficking, in which international organized crime networks are active.

Mayumi Moriyama, a former Japanese chief Cabinet secretary and a House of Representatives member, said that, despite its efforts, Japan still has 'a long way' to go in fighting human trafficking, which she called 'a great violation of human rights, especially the rights of women and children.'

'There is no quick answer,' she said, stressing the importance of 'close cooperation between related agencies.'

In its annual **Trafficking in Persons Report, the U.S. State Department** on June 14 urged the Japanese government to fully employ its resources to increase investigations, prosecutions and convictions of trafficking crimes, as well as better assistance for victims.

'Japan is a destination country for Asian, Latin American and Eastern European women and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation,' the report said.

The State Department put Japan and Russia on a special **watch list** of countries on the verge of falling into the worst of three categories, encompassing such countries as North Korea, Myanmar, Cuba and Sudan.

**LOAD-DATE:** June 23, 2004**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

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Japan Economic Newswire

June 23, 2004 Wednesday

## Ex-justice minister questions **U.S. human trafficking report**

**SECTION:** INTERNATIONAL NEWS**LENGTH:** 462 words**DATELINE:** TOKYO, June 23

A former Japanese justice minister questioned Wednesday a **U.S. human trafficking report** released last week that put Japan on a special **watch list** of countries on the verge of falling into the worst category.

'It may be that the United States has not been fully informed of the situation of trafficking in Japan and the work of the Japanese government,' Mayumi Moriyama said. 'I feel that more research could have resulted in a different observation.'

Moriyama, who served as justice minister in Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's previous cabinet, made the remarks in a keynote speech at the outset of a two-day international meeting on human trafficking in Asia in Tokyo.

But Moriyama, a House of Representatives lawmaker, also said that Japan and other developed countries have 'the long way to go' in fighting against human trafficking.

In its annual **Trafficking in Persons Report** unveiled June 14, the **U.S. State Department** said, 'Japan is a destination country for Asian, Latin American and Eastern European women and children trafficked for the purposes of forced labor and sexual exploitation.'

It put Japan, Russia and others on a special **watch list** of countries on the verge of falling into the worst of three categories, which include countries such as North Korea, Myanmar, Cuba and Sudan. It urged Tokyo to address trafficking crimes and to provide better assistance for victims.

The two-day conference, 'Strategies for Combating Human Trafficking in Asia,' began at the United Nations University in Tokyo, hosted by the U.S. Embassy in Japan, the International Labor Organization's Tokyo Office, and Vital Voices Global Partnership, an international nonprofit organization.

Around 100 officials from the United States, Japan and other Asian countries as well as various organizations attended the meeting.

The conference is an 'example of the pledge of the United States to lead this support in the fight against the crime of human trafficking,' U.S. Ambassador to Japan Howard Baker said in the opening ceremony.

'As many of you may know, the crime of trafficking men, women and children for the purpose of prostitution and forced labor is of concern to both President (George W.) Bush and to first lady Laura Bush,' Baker said.

Laura Bush said in a video message prepared for the event, 'Human trafficking is a crime across the borders. We know regional and international cooperation is crucial.'

In closed sessions, experts will discuss ways to thwart various forms of human trafficking, including forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation.

The participants are also aiming at increasing the level of cooperation between governments and nongovernment entities in Asia to combat human trafficking.

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**June** 23, 2004

## **Human Trafficking Needs Multi-pronged Opposition, Harrison Says; Prevention of trade, rehabilitation and reintegration of victims needed**

**SECTION:** NEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON FILE**LENGTH:** 2501 words

Fighting the scourge of human trafficking requires a "multi-pronged approach," according to Patricia de Stacy Harrison, the acting under secretary of state for public diplomacy and public affairs.

Prevention, rehabilitation and reintegration into society for victims are all necessary to deal with the complex problem of the "new slavery," she said at a conference held in Tokyo that discussed strategies for combating human trafficking in Asia.

In her keynote address delivered June 23 at Tokyo's United Nations University, Harrison said prevention must include anti-trafficking education campaigns, sex tourism prevention programs and economic alternatives for at-risk groups.

Rehabilitation should include emergency assistance and vocational training for foreign trafficking victims; and reintegration should include voluntary repatriation assistance for victims and border shelters in key areas, she explained.

"Trafficking in persons," Harrison said, "is truly a form of personal terrorism." Vulnerable people -- predominantly women and children -- are "lured and then trapped, their lives taken away," she said, while the victimizers, in many cases, are "free to live in society, to reap economic benefits from the human misery they have inflicted."

Fighting against human trafficking, Harrison said, is fighting for human dignity, human rights, rule of law and all the basic tenets of a civil society. "If we believe in these values, we must be against trafficking in a vigorous and a measurable way," she said.

Legal reform is also critical in this venture, Harrison said. The United States is working "to educate foreign police on the new Protect Act, create law enforcement units to rescue women and children, train judges and prosecutors and provide technical assistance to help countries draft or amend their laws on trafficking and sex tourism."

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 is the cornerstone of American anti-trafficking efforts. "This law declares trafficking a crime, and it requires federal agencies to combat trafficking domestically and work with other nations to address the problem globally," Harrison explained. She said an interagency task force to oversee U.S. anti-trafficking efforts has enjoyed favorable results -- criminal prosecution of human traffickers has increased sharply in just the last three years.

The Protect Act passed by the U.S. Congress in 2003 strengthens existing laws. "Under the Protect Act, U.S. law enforcement officials may prosecute American citizens or permanent residents who travel abroad and sexually abuse children. The law criminalizes actions to arrange or facilitate the travel of so-called child sex tourists," Harrison said.

The Bush administration, Harrison said, is working around the world to stop trafficking directly, and, through development assistance, "to improve economic and social conditions so that potential victims will see opportunity and hope in their future and not be swayed by the siren song of the traffickers."

The two-day conference, "Strategies for Combating Human Trafficking in Asia," was hosted by the U.S. embassy in Japan, the International Labour Organization's Tokyo office, and Vital Voices Global Partnership, a U.S. nonprofit organization.

The 2004 edition of the **U.S. Department of State's Trafficking in Persons Report** has put Japan on a "**watch list**" of countries that may slide into the category of the most poorly performing countries for dealing with trafficking issues.

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According to the report, "Japan's trafficking problem is large and Japanese organized crime groups (yakuza) that operate internationally are involved. The Japanese government must begin to fully employ its resources to address this serious human rights crime within its borders."

Following is the transcript of Harrison's remarks:

(begin transcript)

Acting Under Secretary of State Patricia de Stacy Harrison

Strategies for Combating Human Trafficking In Asia

Keynote Speech

23 June 2004

United Nations University

Tokyo

ACTING UNDER SECRETARY HARRISON:

Good morning. Thank you Ms. Horiuchi, and good morning Mr. Ambassador, Mrs. Baker, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

First let me just say, Mrs. Moriyama (Mayumi Moriyama, Member of Parliament and former Minister of Justice), that was really wonderful, and your leadership on behalf of victims is really extraordinary.

I am so pleased to be here among so many distinguished guests - not only from Japan and the Asian region, but globally - as we all work together to end the scourge of human trafficking. Trafficking in persons is truly a form of personal terrorism. Vulnerable people - women and children - lured and then trapped, their lives taken away, and to complete the cycle of injustice, the victimizers, in many cases, free to live in society, to reap economic benefits from the human misery they have inflicted.

As each of us works to end the scourge of trafficking, we are really working for, as President Bush has said, the non-negotiable demands of human dignity - human rights, rule of law, all the basic tenets of a civil society. If we believe in these values, we must be against trafficking in a vigorous and a measurable way.

If you were to ask almost anyone, "Are you for or against slavery?" the person would reply "Against, of course," because slavery is a word that everyone understands. But very few people really know - outside of this room - what trafficking means. They associate the word entirely with the selling and buying of illegal drugs, and it is true that human trafficking is linked to international crime syndicates involved in drugs and terrorism, and guns and false documents and the spread of HIV/AIDS. But so few people understand that this word "trafficking" really means selling into slavery women, men and children - a life of prostitution, degradation, violence and shame.

As Ambassador Baker said, President Bush was the first leader to raise the issue of trafficking at the General Assembly, and ending the scourge of slavery - trafficking - is a priority for him. That's why he has committed an additional \$50 million more funding, on top of the \$70 million allocated this past year. The President's determination is reflected in the remarks that he made to the General Assembly, and he said, "There is a special evil in the abuse and the exploitation of the most innocent and vulnerable. The victims see little of life... an underground of brutality and lonely fear. Those who create these victims and profit from their suffering must be severely punished, and governments that tolerate this trade are really tolerating a form of slavery." Secretary of State Colin Powell used the word "slavery" as well, when he said, "This form of modern slavery plagues every single country in the world including the United States." Last Monday, the Secretary remarked, "We fight trafficking in persons not just for the sake of victims and potential victims of these crimes; we do it for ourselves, because we can't fully embrace our own dignity as human beings unless we champion the dignity of others." That is basically what Mrs. Horiuchi and everyone gathered here is doing - championing the dignity of others.

I know through this important conference, you're going to increase the numbers of people of good will who will be inspired to help those who are being victimized now. We know that heroes come from every level of society. The Colombian Ambassador to Japan is certainly a hero for his commitment to this issue, and each of you here today - you can be the heroes that inspire others. My personal hero is Nancy Kassebaum Baker, because her leadership on behalf of the dignity of others, through a lifetime of work just speaks volumes.

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Let me quickly talk about what the United States is doing to eliminate trafficking in persons. As you know, the U.S. is not immune from the human trafficking problem, and we are working to accelerate anti-trafficking measures at home. In 2000, we passed the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, which is the cornerstone of our anti-trafficking efforts. This law declares trafficking a crime, and it requires federal agencies to combat trafficking domestically and work with other nations to address the problem globally. President Bush has established the President's interagency task force to oversee U.S. anti-trafficking efforts. The task force is chaired by Secretary of State Colin Powell, and its directives are carried out by senior-level government officials from 10 federal agencies and departments. As a result, I'm happy to say that criminal prosecution of human traffickers has increased sharply in just the last three years.

The United States advocates a multi-pronged approach. It isn't a one-size-fits-all approach. As we just heard, this is a complex problem. This multi-pronged approach includes prevention, for one. So that means anti-trafficking education campaigns, sex tourism prevention programs and economic alternatives for at-risk groups. Rehabilitation - that provides emergency assistance and vocational training for foreign traffic victims, and it builds the capacity for NGOs focused on trafficking. And then reintegration - that includes voluntary repatriation assistance for victims and border shelters in key areas. And finally, legal reform. We are working to educate foreign police on the new Protect Act, create law enforcement units to rescue women and children, train judges and prosecutors and provide technical assistance to help countries draft or amend their laws on trafficking and sex tourism.

The U.S. Congress passed the Protect Act last year, which strengthens existing laws. Under the Protect Act, U.S. law enforcement officials may prosecute American citizens or permanent residents who travel abroad and sexually abuse children. The law criminalizes actions to arrange or facilitate the travel of so-called child sex tourists. Its directives are carried out through the President's task force. We are of course working around the world to stop trafficking directly, and most importantly, through development assistance, we are working to improve economic and social conditions so that potential victims will see opportunity and hope in their future and not be swayed by the siren song of the traffickers.

As a result of these efforts, we've begun to see real success in combating trafficking, both in the U.S. and worldwide. And I want to underscore that in our critical need to stop the traffickers, we must continue to help the victims once they are rescued. In the United States, victims of trafficking are eligible for temporary housing, legal assistance, educational opportunities, mental health counseling, foster care and other benefits, and we do work in partnership with NGOs to help us communicate what the benefits are and to deliver them to the victims.

We have an anti-trafficking public awareness campaign, letting victims know that if they do move forward - and moving forward sometimes takes the most courageous step for these people, to move forward to get help - that they will be protected. We also ask for help from those who may know of victims and can work with us to free them. We sponsor a hotline advising callers what resources are available to them, and we've also set up a new Web site for victim assistance.

My own bureau, Educational and Cultural Affairs, works to fight trafficking through educational exchange programs. We bring leading anti-trafficking experts to the United States, where they and their U.S. counterparts can focus on what is working, what needs to be done, and what resources are required. Alumni of these programs represent a positive force in every country on behalf of victims and potential victims. My bureau has also supported the travel of trafficking victims to conferences such as the one in Bali, and the important thing is that when victims of trafficking go to these conferences it provides an opportunity for the public to hear from them directly.

I had an opportunity to meet with some young people who had received both rescue and shelter from volunteers from the private sector. And I have to tell you: Once you meet a victim, you will not sleep at night until you do everything you can to end this terrible scourge.

In 2003, an Asia-only group participated in an ECA (the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs) program that introduced them to policies and strategies to prevent and actively combat trafficking in persons. The program demonstrated how from a wide range of professions. We can effectively maximize what we are invested in doing, because it hits all levels of society. By bringing people from different sectors together, we have a much wider net.

We are supporting projects to provide journalists in Eastern Europe with the tools they need to increase public awareness and to ensure responsible coverage of the issue. We've provided support for four fellows to study anti-trafficking while participating in the Hubert Humphrey Fellowship Program. We support NGOs that build awareness through communications programs. We want to reach potential victims where they receive information - at shelters, but beyond shelters, at bus stops, in restaurants - so that young people can be aware before they succumb.

I'm extremely pleased to learn that some of the alumni of these programs are here today. You were selected for these programs because of your experience and dedication, and you will be part of a sustainable, multiplier effect increasing

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the numbers of people, who as I said can then form a circle of prevention surrounding those who would fall prey to traffickers. And of course, our Embassy here in Tokyo and American embassies overseas support anti-trafficking efforts by organizing workshops and conferences, giving grants to local NGOs, and providing both public and private statements of support for anti-trafficking activities. Many of our participants today from other parts of Asia were selected to attend this conference by our U.S. Embassy colleagues in those countries. All of you have a strong ally in the war against trafficking, and that ally is the American Ambassador, and his or her staff in your home country. On behalf of those who are helpless, your dedication, your commitment is so important.

I want to thank and commend the co-sponsors of this very important conference: the Tokyo branch of the International Labour Organization and Vital Voices, and each one of you for being here today. As President Bush said, "We must show new energy in fighting back an old evil. Nearly two centuries after the abolition of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, and more than a century after slavery was officially ended in its last stronghold, the trade in human beings for any purpose must not be allowed to thrive in our times."

Thank you so very much.

(end transcript)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.)

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Agence France Presse -- English -- English

**June** 17, 2004 Thursday

## Japan considering legislation against human trafficking

**SECTION:** International News**LENGTH:** 317 words**DATELINE:** TOKYO, June 17

Japan's justice ministry plans to submit a bill to parliament next year on punishment for human traffickers, an official said Thursday, days after a damning US report said it was not doing enough about the problem.

"We are working towards submitting the bill to the ordinary session of parliament," the justice ministry official said.

The session is to be convened in January and the bill would likely go before parliament around March, the official said.

Japan's penal code has no provisions to punish traffickers as such, forcing the authorities to resort to charging suspects under the immigration law, prostitution and other charges.

Such offences can be punished by a few years' imprisonment at most.

"We want to make certain all (traffickers) are punished," the official said, adding it had yet to be decided whether the ministry would aim to create a totally new law or revise the existing legislation.

Japan vowed Tuesday to step up its efforts to fight human trafficking after being put on a "**watch list**" of nations involved in the problem by its closest ally, the United States.

The **US State Department "Trafficking in Persons" report** for 2003 slammed Japan for being lax in cracking down on human trafficking, often for sexual enslavement.

Japan's trafficking problem is large, the report said, adding that organized crime groups that operate internationally, like the yakuza, were involved.

The National Police Agency said in a report late May that police uncovered 83 foreign women who had been trafficked into Japan's sex industry last year although experts said the figure was only a fraction of the total.

The women were found as police arrested 41 brokers, strip club owners and others in 20 trafficking cases involving foreign women. Most of them were arrested for obscenity charges and violations of immigration law.

mis/ja/br

Japan-crime-trafficking-US

**LOAD-DATE:** June 18, 2004**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

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XINHUA GENERAL NEWS SERVICE

**June** 17, 2004, Thursday

## US urged to change policy on Myanmar

**SECTION:** WORLD NEWS; POLITICAL**LENGTH:** 277 words**DATELINE:** YANGON, June 17

Myanmar urged the United States on Thursday to change its policy on Myanmar, saying that the negative approach of sanctions and isolation is a "lose-lose" strategy for both of them.

The Myanmar government, in an information sheet, stressed that "If our countries are to move forward, it is clearly time for a fresh approach", calling upon Washington to help Myanmar realize the road map to democracy.

The statement encouraged the United States to understand Myanmar's complex political culture, to consider the entire Myanmar people and to help develop a healthy society in which democracy can flourish and endure.

"America would benefit from a democratic Myanmar, yet Washington ignores Myanmar's invitations to work constructively toward this goal," it said.

While Myanmar is doing everything it possibly could manage, with its limited resources, to fight trafficking in person but it is difficult to understand why the United States has not been mentioned or simply exempted its own failure in its own report, it cited.

The United States is merely putting all the blame on others while it not only refuses to directly shoulder its shared responsibility in this war against trafficking in person but indirectly promotes poverty and unemployment by imposing sanctions on many developing countries creating the main cause for women and children in becoming an easy prey for human traffickers, it blamed.

The **US** House of Representative on Monday passed a resolution renewing one year ban on all imposed on Myanmar. The **US State Department** released on the same day its 2003 "**Trafficking in Persons**" report having placed Myanmar in a **US "watch list"**.

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Japan slapped over lack of protection for women Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia) June 16, 2004 Wednesday

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Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

**June** 16, 2004 Wednesday

## Japan slapped over lack of protection for women

**BYLINE:** Hiroshi Oseido in Tokyo

**SECTION:** WORLD; Pg. 15

**LENGTH:** 327 words

JAPAN offers virtually no shelters for thousands of victims of sexual slavery brought from Asia and South America, an official from a women's rights group claimed yesterday.

Keiko Otsu, director of Help, an Asian women's shelter, made her comments after Japan was put on a new US "**watch list**" for failing to do more against the trafficking of humans.

Citing the 2004 **Trafficking in Persons Report**, John Miller, a senior adviser in the **State Department**, said yesterday that Japan "has a huge problem with slavery, particularly sex slavery, a tremendous gap between the size of the problem and the resources and efforts devoted to addressing the problem".

Mr Miller said he visited Japan, and "found only two small shelters, each with eight to 10 beds".

"It is correct for US State Department adviser John Miller to have said that there are only two small shelters, each with eight to 10 beds," Ms Otsu said.

Responding to the US report, the Japanese Government said it would address the problem.

"If the Government's measures are deemed insufficient, we would step up our efforts to eliminate human rights infringement," Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda said.

Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi said the number of shelters for victims would be increased.

Thousands of women from Thailand, Philippines, and other Asian countries, as well as from South America are believed to have been brought to Japan as "entertainers", but are forced into prostitution by organised crime gangs. A police white paper identified the problem.

"Illegally entered foreign women are forced into becoming street girls in Tokyo's downtown districts such as Shinjuku or Ikebukuro by gangsters," the report claimed.

Among about 250,000 women working in Japan's sex industry, as many as 150,000 foreign women were involved in sex and massage parlours or striptease joints, according to the Coalition against Trafficking in Women, an international organisation.

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United Press International

**June** 14, 2004 Monday

## **U.S. raps allies on human trafficking**

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U.S. allies Japan and Pakistan are on a **watch list** of countries that do not comply with a U.S. human trafficking act, the U.S. State Department said Monday.

In its document, "**Trafficking in Persons Report**," the department also lists Cuba and North Korea among 10 countries facing sanctions for failing to satisfy minimum standards or attempt to comply with the **U.S.** Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

As many as 800,000 people are trafficked across borders each year, Secretary of State Colin Powell said Monday while releasing the report.

Last year the report identified 15 countries that could face sanctions.

"Trafficking is ... a global security threat because profits from trafficking finance still more crime and violence, including very likely terrorist violence," Powell said.

The State Department is required by law to report each year to Congress on efforts by foreign governments to fight human trafficking. This year's report is the department's fourth.

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